

THE LIFE OF LIEUT.-GENERAL
HIS HIGHNESS SIR PRATAP SINGH
G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.V.O., LL.D.



James F. Lee

Lieut. Pratap Singh

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BY

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PREFACE

Not long after the death of Lieutenant-General His Highness Sir Pratap Singh Bahadur, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.V.O., LL.D., a committee was formed at Delhi, with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India as President, to collect funds to "perpetuate the memory of one of the most picturesque and striking figures in the modern history of India."

A circular dated October 17, 1923, outlines the object of the Memorial Fund, and says: "As a soldier and administrator, and a sportsman, Sir Pratap's record was unique, and made his name a household word in England as well as in India. . . . It is unlikely that a reputation thus built up could ever fade, and it is in the interests of posterity, rather than in any apprehension that the name of 'Sir P.' may be forgotten, that the idea of a definite and lasting tribute to his memory is put forward. By such a memorial the rising generations may be helped to keep in view the lofty principles and indomitable spirit which animated him."

A sum of Rs. 96,655 was collected and allocated as follows:

(a) Rs. 76,224 paid to the Secretary of State for India to endow three annual scholarships of £100 each at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, tenable by sons of Indian officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Indian Army, graduating from the Prince of Wales's Royal Indian Military College, Dehra Dun.

(b) About Rs. 17,000 is being invested in the name of the Commandant of the above-mentioned college

to provide prizes, etc., for boys passing out of the college

It was further decided that a portrait of Sir Pratap, to be hung in the Entrance Hall of the same college, should be painted at a cost of Rs 3,000, by Mr J P Gangooly of Calcutta

Finally, at the request of the committee, His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur generously undertook to defray the cost of a biography of Sir Pratap

In June, 1925 at Simla, I was asked on behalf of the committee to prepare this subject to the consent of His Highness who was in England. This was not only ungrudgingly given, but everything in His Highness's power has been done to simplify my task. The Foreign and Political Member of the Jodhpur State Council Pandit Sir Sukhdeo Prasad, Kt, C.I.E., placed at my disposal Sir Pratap's autobiography, which he had dictated in the vernacular at various times. Where possible I have used his own words, but it is a thousand pities that Sir Pratap's biographer could not have gone through it with him during his lifetime, had that been so, much of general interest, which is now irrevocably lost, could have been elicited from him to replace a mass of irrelevant matter which does not merit chronicling. Despite this, it has formed an invaluable basis for the story of his life, and in many places presents a vivid picture of the man himself as he was.

So many of his friends have responded to my appeals for personal details of his life that I cannot thank them here, save gratefully and collectively, but I must acknowledge a special debt of gratitude to Lady Stuart Beaton, Major-General Sir Harry Watson, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E. M.V.O., Sir John Thompson, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Foreign and Political Secretary to the Government of India; Lieutenant-Colonel C. O. Harvey, C.B.E., C.V.O., M.C., Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Cameron, Colonel

Clive Wigram, C.B., C.S.I., C.V.O., Equerry to His Majesty the King Emperor; Rao Sahib Thakur Dhokal Singh, O.B.E.; and to Babu Umrao Singh, Secretary to the State Council, Jodhpur, for so generously placing at my disposal all the information they could give; as also to Sir Pratap's sons, Rao Sahib Rao Raja Narpat Singh and Captain Rao Raja Hanut Singh, for the portraits which form the illustrations.

I have to thank Sir Henry Newbolt for kind permission to include his "Ballad of Sir Pertab Singh" from *Poems, Old and New* (John Murray).

The spelling of Indian names is a loose affair, and Sir Pratap's name is no exception to this. I have adhered, save in quoting others, to his own way of designating himself.

JODHPUR,

March, 1926.

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THE LIFE OF LIEUT.-GENERAL H.H. SIR PRATAP SINGH

CHAPTER I

EARLY DAYS

Among the warrior tribes of India the Rathores yield pride of place to none. They trace their pedigree in a direct line for over 1,400 years, and though records of them before that period are few and far between, there is reason to believe that they are an offshoot from the great Suryavansa (Solar) line of Kshatriyas, and are descendants of the deified hero Maharaja Ramchandra.

The history of the Kshatriyas is a red page, written in their own blood, in the annals of Aryavarta. Where trouble and danger were, they were always to be found, ready to sacrifice all in defence of their country. It was men such as Rana Pratap, Maharaja Jaswant Singh, Guru Govind Singh, Seoji, and their like who saved their country and religion from the fury of the Islamic sword.

In older times they numbered among them Ramchandra and Laksmana, Bhima and Arjuna; from this line of heroes the Rathore Rajputs are sprung. There are conflicting traditions of the origin of the tribe. Tod in his classic work says that the first Rathore was sprung from the *rath*, or spine, of the god Indra, and was born in the house of King Yavanashwa of Parlipur, and from this legend draws the conclusion that the Rathores belong to the Isui tribe of the Indo-Scythic race.

Sir Pratap Singh dissents entirely from this view. 'The reason,' he states, "of this curious mistake of the eminent writer is that he was wholly unacquainted with the Sanskrit language, and went for his derivatives to other sources. Yavanaswa and Parlipur are both Sanskrit words, and if by chance the Scythian name Isui has some resemblance to the second half of the word Yavanaswa, it does not necessarily follow that this latter signifies descent from the Isui tribe. European investigators are, as a rule, honest and diligent in carrying out their researches, but it is a characteristic of theirs that, if they get a point for putting their foot upon, they try to raise a mountain over it, and so, from this trifling verbal resemblance, the whole of the Rajput race is accounted to have derived their origin from the Indo-Scythic stock."

The most popular and best authenticated account, which is preserved in their family traditions and backed by historical evidence, is given by Sir Pratap as follows

"The original name of the family goddess was Mansa, her famous temple being built on one of the hills of the Vindhya range, her name was changed to Vindhya Biasani (residing in the Vindhychal). Her incarnation in the form of a falcon having protected the country inhabited by this clan, she received the name of Rashtra Saniya (protector of the country). This view is borne out by the Rathores, till the reign of the late Maharaja Takhat Singhji, throwing meat to the kites, as also by the presence of two falcons on the scutcheon of the Rathore family. The followers of the goddess were originally called Rashtra Saniya, which, in course of time, was abbreviated into Rashtra. To show their grandeur many eulogistic prefixes and affixes were afterwards attached, one of these was Rashtra-kut (*kut*=the highest), which gradually changed into Rathor, or, as the word is spelt now, Rathore." But in the reign of Maharaja Jai Chand

disaster came; Shahabuddin Ghorî, fresh from the conquest of Delhi, marched on Kanauj; the Maharaja fought valiantly at the head of his forces until, finding the day irretrievably lost, he plunged on horseback into the holy waters of the Ganges, and gave up his life.

The Rathores took part in the great war of the Mahabharata; the Raja Shalya, king of Maru Desh (Marwar), referred to in that epic, was a Rathore, and gave proof of his valour in battle.

After the close of this devastating struggle the shattered remnants of the Rathores, after many wanderings, ultimately established the kingdom of Kanauj, which grew to such dimensions that the twelfth century saw it the largest and most powerful of the four great kingdoms of Northern India, with its ruler enjoying the title of Maharaja Adhiraj, King of Kings.

Once again the Rathores were driven to a wandering existence, leaving only a handful at Kanauj. Here, over a petty kingdom, ruled Seoji, grandson of Jai Chand. On his death his three sons, Asthanji, Sonangji, and Ajay Deoji, set out to the south-west in quest of new territory; at Pali, the home of the Paliwal Brahmans, the aid of the brothers was sought to drive off the Mer and Mina freebooters, who were a constant source of trouble. Asthanji drove the marauders into their hill fastnesses and then, believing the Brahmans incapable of protecting their country, he very thoughtfully took possession of it himself to relieve them of the responsibility.

Next he took Khed, now called Malani, from the Goil Rajputs, and so laid the foundations of a new Rathore kingdom, which grew by degrees into the state of Jodhpur, or Marwar (Maru war, "region of death"), to give it the name which its sandy and inhospitable desert tracts have earned for it.

With Asthanji's help the second brother Sonangji

took possession of the country of Idar from the Dabi Rajputs, while the third, Ajay Deoji, founded a petty kingdom in Sourashter (Kathiawar)

In A.D. 1459 Rao Jodha transferred his capital from Mandore to its present site, where he laid the foundations of the city and built the fort which mounts guard like a watchful falcon perched on its rock 400 feet sheer above the white roofed city

From him are descended not only the present rulers of Marwar, but also those of seven independent states, Bikaner, Kishengarh, Rutlam, Idar, Jhabua, Sailana and Sitamau

Of this proud race of warriors was Sir Pratap Singh, born in October, A.D. 1845, or, according to the Hindu calendar, on the 6th day of Kartik Bad, Samwat, 1902, he was the third son of Maharaja Sri Takhat Singh G.S.C.I., ruler of a territory rather larger than Ireland, with a population of $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions. Maharaja Takhat Singh had succeeded to the Gadi of Jodhpur in 1843, owing to the death of Maharaja Man Singh without an heir, lineal descendant of Anand Singh, Maharaja of Idar third son of Maharaja Ajit Singh (1677-1724) of Jodhpur, Takhat Singh was brought from Idar in accordance with the last wishes of Man Singh and his accession was supported by the Ranis of the royal house as well as by the Sardars

It was no bed of roses to which he came, the lax rule of the last three reigns had left the state in a deplorable plight. The administration was in the hands of Sardars and officials, whose family feuds and personal quarrels left them neither time nor inclination to further the interests of the state. An inefficient police made no headway against the bands of thieves and dacoits, who harassed and oppressed the luckless ryots on all sides. Takhat Singh brought about some appreciable improvement, but it was not until the reign of his successor, Jaswant Singh, that the administration was established on a sound and permanent basis

Of Pratap Singh's early years our knowledge is confined to such details as he himself collected in after years from his mother's confidante and the gate-keeper of the zenana at the palace, whose duty it was to keep a record of important or interesting events.

Until after the completion of his second year he remained with his mother in the zenana, but after that he passed most of his time with his father, playing happily at his feet. Unlike the majority of children, he never crawled on hands and knees, but used to drag himself about in a sitting position. He learned to walk by the aid of a wooden horse and wooden elephant on wheels, which moved under the pressure of his hands whenever he stood up with their aid, and compelled him to keep pace with them or come to earth. In the early stages of walking his feet turned outwards to an excessive degree; to obviate this his father ordered the two big toes to be tied together, a process which at first not unnaturally made lifting the feet a difficulty and produced a sort of shuffling gait; as, however, it brought about the desired effect, there is evidently something to be said for it.

We learn, too, that in these early days he was possessed of a paunch so protruding that his father placed him under the treatment of a Vaidya, or Indian doctor, who had accompanied Maharaja Takhat Singh from Ahmednagar to Jodhpur. The treatment consisted of mercury for medicine and a diet of khichari (a mixture of boiled rice and pulse) and ghi (a clarified butter). This produced an appetite so strong that the only way to bring his meals to an end was to remove him from the scene of action by force, and doubtless even in those days little Pratap put up a stout resistance. For this reason his father generally fed him with his own hands, but one day, being called away on urgent business, he entrusted the supervision

of the boy's food to a Brahmin woman of the zenana. She, unfortunately, had no idea of this inordinate craving for food, and instead of telling her to stop feeding him, Pratap Singh proceeded to absorb all she gave him until the pot was empty and the paunch full. The inevitable followed, and Maharaja Sakhat Singh returned to find his small son rolling in agony on the floor of the palace, on being asked what was the matter the boy replied, to the general amusement, that just as square pieces were cut off water-melons to see the nature of the stuff inside, so, if a similar piece were taken out of his belly, he would feel all right. The sufferer was then dosed with hot salt and water and his throat tickled, a form of treatment which speedily removed the trouble.

The important thing was that the Valdya achieved the desired result, the paunch became normal, the formerly thin arms and legs stout and strong. All trouble, though, was not yet over, the mercury had been given before teething began, and appears to have retarded the process by a full year, even then the four middle teeth—two upper and two lower, usually the first cut, refused to put in an appearance. The remedy suggested for this was the rubbing of the gums until blood was drawn by a piece of cloth covered with salt, this was faithfully performed by his maternal uncle, Thakur Gambhir Singh, every day for a month, and Pratap Singh found the process so painful that his uncle became to him a veritable ogre from whom he tried to escape in vain. Fortunately, the cutting of the teeth was achieved, and the painful process discontinued.

His love of sport doubtless had its inception in the frequent excursions made by his father hunting game. The Maharaja often used to go for days at a time with his Ranis and children to different houses, built for the purpose, a few miles from Jodhpur, we learn that the Ranis know how to handle a gun as well as to ride

on horse- or camel-back. Pratap Singh on these occasions was carried on the shoulders of an attendant.

Purdah arrangements were always made for the Ranis, and guards were placed about 200 yards away on each side at frequent intervals to insure their privacy.

All the houses had one or two servants in permanent charge of them, and were always kept provisioned and ready for occupation.

When any state business had to be transacted, the officials brought their papers from Jodhpur to the Maharaja for orders, or else met him at some appointed place. The three chief hunting resorts were Kailana and Balsamand, two picturesque artificial lakes which supply Jodhpur with water, and Mandore, the ruined capital of Marwar, where the stately cenotaphs of past rulers were fast crumbling to decay, until restored at a later date by Sir Pratap himself.

The old Residency, in the days before the present modern edifice was built on the opposite side of Jodhpur, was within three or four miles of even the most distant of these shooting-boxes, and the Resident frequently took part in the sport.

Balsamand is an artificial lake, terraced at the embankment end, with two roomy and picturesque houses of red sandstone and an attractive garden, which, at the time of writing, is being entirely re-planned. In the garden were some fine banyan and pipal trees, which were the haunt of a number of langurs (the large grey and whiskered monkey). One day, when Pratap Singh was five years old, while his father was asleep, he went into the garden to play with some other boys. The children were describing how the monkeys were in the habit of snatching fruit and flowers from their hands. Pratap Singh had never seen this, and with the spirit of battle which animated him throughout his life, said: "Let us go where the monkeys are, as I want to wrestle with one." In the

hollow of a stately pipal tree a large and fierce animal was known to have its home, close to the foot-wide wall at the water's edge, along this wall the small adventurer walked, while his awed companions watched with eager eyes. Seeing only a small boy, the monkey advanced to the attack, Pratap promptly joined battle. The combatants closed and a fierce struggle ensued, culminating in the fall of both from the narrow wall on to the terrace 15 feet below. The monkey escaped unhurt, but the boy lay there senseless and bleeding from a bad cut on the head. His father was speedily on the scene, and carried the insensible boy into the house, where the profuse bleeding caused great alarm, and his father, using his pet name, called to him. "Shubji Lal, what is your trouble?" Pratap Singh who was beginning to recover his senses, replied "Bao Sahib, I am all right, why are you anxious about me?" characteristically making light of an injury which it took him a month to recover from.

When he reached the age of seven his father arranged for him and for his two elder brothers, Jaswant Singh, who afterwards succeeded Maharaja Takhat Singh, and Zorawar Singh to live together, and four servants were assigned to them—a barber, a cook, a bathroom attendant and a man in charge of the wardrobe. In addition five Rajputs each from a different clan, of tried loyalty, acted as a bodyguard, and if one of them went away another of his own clan replaced him. At meals Pratap Singh generally shared the dish of his father or eldest brother, giving his own portion to three Rajput boys of his own age who came daily to make their salaams.

With these boys he began the little literary education he ever received, the subjects of instruction being Marwari (the local interpretation of Hindi), Persian, and Urdu, the last he learned to read and write well, but later, from lack of practice, lost the

accomplishment. His favourite study was Marwari, which was in those days the official language of the state; and his taste for administrative work was shown thus early by his study of official papers and records, for which he used to send to the Katcheri (court-house). His father, noticing this, wisely fostered a penchant so unusual in a mere boy by giving him, during the next few years, such small matters as were within his power to transact with the Resident, Colonel Shakespeare.

His seventh year also saw his first riding lessons, and it is typical that his first teacher, Ghazi Khan from Baroda, was not to his liking, owing to his lack of severity and habit of confining his instruction to a mere indication of pace and nothing more, whereas he strongly approved the methods of Sheik Karim Buksh, who was not only a stern disciplinarian, but also emphasized the mistakes of his pupils with a whip. On this account Pratap Singh asked his father to transfer him to the care of this man "who handled his pupils roughly"; he did not know the name, but his further description, "The man who limps," was enough, and the change was made without more ado. The next day Sheik Karim Buksh presented himself with the horses, touched Pratap Singh's feet with his hands, which he then raised to his own eyes, and said: "To be sure, you are my master and giver of bread, but when you come to learn riding from me, I, as your teacher, shall be like your master, and whatever I tell you, you will have to obey." "Yes, Ustad (teacher) Sahib," replied Pratap Singh; "knowing this, I applied to the Maharaja to make me your pupil, and you are free to deal with me as you think proper." The teacher then began a few preliminary instructions such as: "Hold the reins thus," "Keep your thighs firm," "Have your eyes fixed between the two ears of the horse," "Don't let your head stoop," and so on. After that, if the pupil failed to observe any of these

instructions, he was corrected three or four times, and if further correction were needed the whip was made use of. Pratap Singh soon became so expert a rider that to those who knew and loved him in after years it is almost impossible to think of him apart from a horse. He never forgot his mentor, and used to ascribe with gratitude to him everything he learnt about riding. A tribute indeed from the man who became one of the most perfect horsemen of the age, and one who might fairly have said, "A horse ! my kingdom for a horse," which, appropriately enough, appears in a Rajputana calendar in aid of the Red Cross during the war as Sir Pratap's favourite, though possibly inspired, quotation.

CHAPTER II

BOYHOOD

IN A.D. 1852, when Pratap Singh was in his seventh year, there came into his life one who was destined to play a leading part in the moulding of his character and to instil in him that predominant devotion to duty which was so marked a characteristic of his career; this was Maharaja Ram Singh of Jaipur, who came in the year under notice to marry Pratap Singh's eldest sister, Shri Chand Kunwar Baiji.

Before the marriage took place the relations between the bridegroom and the family of the bride were far from being as cordial as they subsequently became. In the first place, Maharaja Ram Singh, some time after his betrothal at Jodhpur, had arranged a second alliance with a princess of the Rewah house, and further was desirous that this marriage should be the first to take place. Maharaja Takhat Singh objected, not only because the Jodhpur betrothal had taken place at an earlier date, but also because in marriages between Rajput princely families the houses of Udaipur, Jaipur, and Jodhpur take precedence of all others, and their marriages precede all others, whether there has been previous betrothal or not. After some discussion, Maharaja Ram Singh conceded the point and came to Jodhpur, and on the auspicious day proceeded to the Fort, where the ceremony was to take place, in a deluge so heavy that the howdah of his elephant was filled with water, which the Sardars seated behind him had continually to bale out with their shields. On arrival at the zenana a

rose which throws a vivid light on the unsettled conditions of the times. It was necessary for the bridegroom to enter the barred anana in order that the bride, with her and guarded to his, might make the customary seven scarf knotted turns round him, which form an essential part of the ceremony, on such occasions only a younger brother or a boy of his family is allowed to accompany the bridegroom. As Maharaja Ram Singh had neither available, he had perforce to enter alone. This his Sardars flatly refused to allow, and after much argument a compromise was arrived at, by which Ram Singh went in alone, leaving outside with his Sardars a hostage in Maharaja Takhat Singh, so that if any harm befall him swift reprisals might be taken, the marriage rites, which should have been performed by the bride's father, had to be carried out by his eldest son, Jaswant Singh. After this there was no further hitch, and after three or four days of lavish entertainment the bridegroom departed, loaded with gifts of great value, to carry out his second marriage.

It was this atmosphere of intrigue, suspicion, and unrest which Pratap Singh in later life found the great obstacle to progress and to his work of reform.

By the time he was nine he had become an expert rider, and had been initiated into the use of the gun. Having no light weapon, he used his father's heavy double-barrelled gun, which he rested in the fork of a tree, using as targets the earthen pots of Persian oranges, and so forth. He was allowed wheels, stones, his father shooting, but not himself to accompany the Maharaja had two shot and two "bullet" shoot, the Maharaja had two shot and two "bullet" guns always ready to be handed to him as required, and Pratap Singh soon gained permission to take charge of the latter, he rapidly made himself familiar with the lore of the chase, and at length was given leave to take part in the shooting, where he soon scored his initial success by bringing down with one

shot a big boar going at full speed. This so pleased his father that he made Pratap Singh a present of the gun, and allowed him to shoot regularly for the future. To cultivate accuracy of aim, he was taught by his father never to use the shot-gun, and learnt to "decapitate" duck, partridge, quail, and sand-grouse with the bullet; increasing success brought him increasing confidence, and he was soon emboldened to try his hand on more dangerous quarry.

One night Maharaja Takhat Singh wounded a panther, which at daybreak they followed up on foot and found in a bush about 50 yards away; believing it unable to move, the Maharaja threw a stone, which roused the beast effectually, and it charged from 25 yards. The Maharaja and Maharaj Jaswant Singh both misfired, but young Pratap Singh coolly dispatched it with a bullet at short range, a feat which his father signalized by the gift of his own double-barrelled gun.

On another occasion when out hunting they came upon a sheep recently killed, and, looking about the hill, got a hasty glimpse of an animal which might be a panther or hyæna. It was a bare hill with practically no cover, so the little party began to beat; Pratap Singh had gone by himself to the left, and at last came upon a panther with its head and half its body under a loose stone, the other half being in the open, but invisible even from a short distance. Pratap Singh advanced until he reached the stone, and, standing on it, prepared to fire with his new double-barrel when he thought, to use his own words: "There is a nice chance to use the sword." Scarcely, however, had he begun to draw it than the panther raised its head; they were face to face at arm's length, the powerful full-grown brute and the boy of nine. Pratap Singh let go the sword and again took his gun, the barrel of which the beast promptly seized in its jaws; the boy pulled the trigger, and the panther rolled over on its back stone dead!

His father, on hearing the details, scolded him roundly, asking how he thought a boy of nine would have the strength to kill a panther with the sword alone, and telling him he would surely be killed some day, he threatened, moreover, if ever Pratap Singh attempted such a foolhardy thing again, to take away his gun and sword. It appears that the rebuke was given more for form's sake than in seriousness, for he narrated the exploit with pride to his Sardars, and after that used to address Pratap Singh as Bankara Bahadur or "little hero."

Another time, as he was chasing a hyæna down a hill covered with loose stones, while trying to kill the beast with his sword his horse fell, apart from bruises, the whole of his right side from eye to ankle was severely injured, and the wounds took two and a half months to heal.

He could not remain confined to his bed during the period of convalescence but used to go about on the back of an attendant or sitting on a horse, which had to be led, as he could not hold the reins.

There was another pursuit of an unusual nature which the boy greatly enjoyed, and which further helped to harden his frame. About seventy maunds, more than 300 pounds, of paddy were used daily to feed the wild pigs at two places, and the pigs became so tame that they would follow anyone with a handful of paddy for some distance. By this means Pratap Singh and his companions used to entice a female with her young ones into a house, drive out the mother, and worry the young ones until they tried to attack the boys, who then proceeded to wrestle with them, by continual practice they gradually learnt to tackle even young boars of a year old. The game was that, when a pig charged, his opponent covered the animal's eyes with the right hand and gave ground a little to lessen the force of the attack, until the pig came to a halt, when the left

ear was seized and pulled to that side with the free hand, turning the pig partly round; the right hand was then shifted to grasp the hind-legs. Now a pig cannot bend its spine, and while it was struggling to free itself, its fore-legs were also seized, and it was quickly deposited on its back. Sometimes they would even tackle the old sow herself, when, says Pratap Singh, "the hand would now and then pass into her mouth, and she would have a good chance to bite; on occasions, when one of us would fall down, the boar would sit on him." Fortunately, these boars were too young to have tusks, so that no great damage was done to anyone. The pastime was so popular that lots used to be drawn for the first bout, and the skill Pratap Singh acquired therein was once the means of saving his life, as we shall see in due course.

Another art which he learnt was that of swimming, which he appears to have mastered by the light of Nature when wading in the water after fish, which he either caught in a chadder (loin cloth), or else tried to impale on spear or sword; occasionally he would get into deep water, and then "try to get out of it."

In his tenth year he accompanied his father on a pilgrimage to Hardwar, Prayag, and other sacred places. The party included the Ranis, his eldest brother, and others of the royal house, with Sardars, cavalry, infantry, and retainers to the number of 10,000; they travelled by road in carriages, palkis, on elephants, horses, and camels. The first halt was at Jaipur, to visit Pratap Singh's sister, the wife of Maharaja Ram Singh; this time the reunion was of the most friendly nature, and they were received with every mark of affection. Thence on to Delhi, where they stayed four or five days and bathed in the Jumna, and so to Hardwar to lave themselves in the sacred waters of holy Ganga. On the return journey they stopped at Meerut, where the Maharaja gave a large banquet to all the Europeans of the station, women

and children included, followed by a grand display of fireworks, this increased the already strong liking Maharaja Takhat Singh had for Europeans, and of which he was soon after to give such striking proof by his invaluable help to them in the days of the Mutiny. Agra was visited, and again Jaipur on the return journey, where Maharaja Ram Singh gave the customary gifts to the various members of his wife's family—to her father an elephant, horses, guns, bows and arrows, daggers, and the like, to Pratap Singh and each of his brothers a horse and dagger.

The tour, which involved the expenditure of fifteen lakhs and the discomfort of a four months' journey by road, shows the affection Pratap Singh's father had for his children, since it was undertaken for the sake of his daughter, in the hope that the two visits to Jaipur might remove any traces of the former ill-feeling, if such still existed, between her husband and her own family, and so render her position happier and more assured. As a matter of fact, there were no grounds for any such fears, but the friendship between the two rulers was strongly cemented by these meetings.

It is not surprising to learn that Pratap Singh performed the entire journey on horseback, riding by the side of the Maharaja's carriage, and though frequently pressed to join his father lest he should get overtired, he preferred to remain in the saddle, which was country made and comfortable on a long journey.

Shortly after their return to Jodhpur he was playing one day with his brothers and another boy, the son of a servant, in the garden of a small palace now the site of the Hewson Hospital. They used to tease this boy, Jethu Singh, who generally ended by bursting into tears, but on this occasion, goaded beyond endurance, he drew his sword and struck at Pratap Singh. The sword cut through his clothes, and made two clean cuts on the arm with which Pratap had tried to guard

himself. He disarmed his assailant, and the wounds were bound up; but Jethi Singh was in great distress, and Maharaj Jaswant Singh told his brother to keep the matter from their father, as Jethi Singh would be sent to prison if the Maharaja heard about it; consequently, all present promised to say nothing. Maharaj Zorawar Singh, the Maharaja's second son, however, broke his word, and his father asked Pratap Singh if the report was true; the boy not only denied it, but, when asked why his arm was bandaged, replied that he had scratched it in a tree, and when told to remove the bandage, stiffened his arm so that the cuts closed and really resembled scratches, and the Maharaja was satisfied with the explanation. Jethi Singh's father came afterwards humbly to express his gratitude to Pratap Singh, who had so loyally shielded his son from disgrace and punishment by his ready wit.

In A.D. 1857 four events occurred which deeply impressed themselves in the memory of Pratap Singh: first, the Mutiny; second, the rebellion of some of the Marwar Sardars against their chief; third, the explosion by lightning of the powder magazine in the Fort at Jodhpur; fourth, a severe earthquake.

The Maharaja and his family were living at that time in the Fort, and letters reached him one day by runner (for there was neither railway nor telegraph in the state) from Ajmer on the one side and Erinpura on the other, bringing news of the rising of the Sepoys and massacre of European officers. Rumours of the wildest nature were in the air, and finally a man reported that a descendant of the Moghul Emperors had ascended the throne of Delhi, that all the Rajas were sending their representatives to him, and that one should be sent from Jodhpur too. This enraged the Maharaja, who seized Pratap Singh at his side by the neck, and said: "The rebels are murdering the children of Europeans mercilessly. If they were to

kill my children in that manner, I would not desert the British, for Rajputs, when they have once sworn friendship with anybody, will not desert him up to the last breath of their life "

A few days later word was brought that a number of European ladies and children had fled from the mutineers at Ajmer and Nasirabad, and were wandering about in the jungle between these places and Jodhpur. The Maharaja at once showed that he was no mere fair-weather friend by sending out conveyances to bring them to his capital, where they arrived in such a state of destitution as excited universal pity among all who saw them.

Owing to the unsettled state of the country, and the fact that several powerful Sardars of Marwar were in armed revolt against their own prince, the Maharaja and the Resident decided on housing the fugitives in the Fort, a safer refuge than the Residency, where everything possible was done to insure their comfort. Meanwhile, the rebellious Sardars had joined hands with the mutineers, defeated the Raj troops sent to subdue them, and captured their entire equipment, together with a lakh of rupees into the bargain.

A few days after this at five in the morning, when the Fort and city below were wrapped in sleep, a terrific report was heard, followed by explosion of the powder magazine in the Fort, the stone covering had been shattered by lightning, and a slab weighing over 300 pounds was afterwards found in the bed of Chopasni River, hurled, so tradition says, six miles by the force of the explosion, houses in the city were demolished, and some five hundred people perished. At the sound of the first report the Maharaja, who was with his family at Balsamand, six miles away, believed it to be the guns of the mutineers bombarding the Residency, a second explosion followed, smashing the doors of the palace and giving the Maharaja a deep cut in the face with a splinter of glass. Still convinced that it was the guns of the mutineers, he ordered Pratap Singh and his

brothers " to get up at once, gird their loins, and turn out." When about half-way to the Residency they met a messenger from the Resident, who, for his part, had feared that the rebels had attacked the Maharaja's palace; in a few minutes a sawar brought the news of the explosion of the Fort magazine, so the party repaired with all possible haste, riding bareback, to the Fort, where the European refugees and all the members of the ruling family, except the Ranis and princesses, who could not leave their purdah apartments, were removed to a place of safety, whereupon the Maharaja personally directed the operations for extinguishing the fire, which had started in a part of the magazine containing jute, and was threatening a hitherto undamaged compartment of powder.

This disaster was followed exactly a fortnight later by a severe earthquake shock, which continued intermittently for twenty-five minutes, but fortunately caused no loss of life and little damage to property, as the less strongly built houses had been demolished by the recent explosion.

Meanwhile the mutineers, after plundering a number of villages, made for Nasirabad and Ajmer; the Commissioner of Ajmer sent an appeal to Maharaja Takhat Singh for troops to assist in the defence of that important city. Pratap Singh and his brothers begged to be given a chance of fighting, but were refused on the score of their youth; but 5,000 Rajputs were sent, who helped to guard the city and Fort at Ajmer. A little later on the mutineers were utterly routed, and the rebellion of the Sardars was also stamped out in due course.

The intense devotion to the British Crown, which with Pratap Singh amounted to a religion, doubtless owes not a little to his association in early life with these hapless fugitives from the mutineers, and to his father's very practical demonstration of the traditional loyalty of his house

CHAPTER III

YOUTH AND MARRIAGE

WHILE Pratap Singh was living with his brothers, Jaswant Singh and Zorawar Singh, he was presented by his father with a large painted box, almost as big as a tiny room, in which to keep his possessions, it was about 8 feet long, opening at the top and in front, with pegs inside, on which he used to hang sword, shield, gun, and other possessions. In those days he generally preferred to sleep on the ground, as he had an uncomfortable habit of falling out of bed when turning over in his sleep, but sometimes he actually slept in the box with top and front open, he kept it all his life, and during his later years would point to it with a chuckle, saying "That my house for twenty years "

When twelve years old he devoted still more attention to the business of the state, and made himself familiar with all new orders that were issued, any officer or clerk having business to submit to the Maharaja did it through Pratap Singh, who referred the matter to his father and brought back his orders. By occupying his time in this way during the years of his youth, he obtained at a very early age an invaluable training, both in the method and practice of the administration of the state.

During this period both of his elder brothers and Pratap Singh were married. The marriage of Maharaj Jaswant Singh was the first to take place, and as befitting the heir to the Raj, was celebrated with great pomp and lavish expenditure. For the two

preceding months the prospective bridegroom was rubbed daily with a paste of flour, ghee, and other ingredients to impart a gloss to the body, after which he was clad in robes of saffron and other colours, and garlands of flowers were hung round his neck. Feasts were given daily to all the relatives, officials, and servants, from which dishes were sent to the Ranis in the zenana; every evening there were fireworks, dancing, and other amusements. The first of these feasts was given by Maharaja Takhat Singh, and the succeeding ones by various hosts in order of seniority; the number of these would-be hosts was so large, in spite of the very heavy expenditure involved, that, even by having two feasts daily, in the morning and evening, there were still a number who were disappointed of the chance of entertaining. One is tempted to believe that, towards the end of the period, the course had produced distinctly jaded palates in those who had been compelled to attend the entire series.

The marriage was with a princess of Jamnagar in Kathiawar, a state ranking considerably below Marwar in order of precedence; the ancient custom of Rajput chiefs in such cases was therefore adopted, and instead of going to the bride's house to perform the marriage ceremony, the bridegroom merely sent his sword, round which the bride made six out of seven appointed circuits, the seventh being made round the bridegroom in person to whose home the bride is brought.

Pratap Singh was the only one of his brothers unable to take part in this marriage, as he was suffering from a boil on the cheek. He had recovered by the time his second brother, Maharaj Zorawar Singh, was married; there was not the same *éclat* here as in the case of the heir to the Raj, but as he was marrying the daughter of Thakur Gambhir Singh of Jhalamand, only three miles from Jodhpur, the marriage party

was swelled by large numbers of uninvited guests, who were given generous hospitality. In Rajput marriages there is a custom that when the bridegroom's party is nearing the bride's house, some of his horsemen advance to meet a similar group from the bride's party. After saluting each other they race for the house, the winners take the turbans of the losers, whose party is mulcted in a feast. On this occasion, as Thakur Gambhir Singh was the uncle of Jaswant Singh and Pratap Singh, they were chosen as the bride's representatives, and proved successful in the race.

Maharaj Jaswant Singh's wife was only a child of eight or nine, and had returned to her home a few days after the marriage, in consequence of this he took a second wife, who came to live in the Fort with her mother-in-law. According to an old custom which obtained with many of the nobility of India, the young couple never met at all, except occasionally, when the bride was conducted to a suite of rooms by two maid servants and a eunuch, where she found her husband awaiting her, the servants slept in an outer room, and at five in the morning conducted the young wife back to the Ranis' quarters, a custom which Sir Pratap holds to be a very wholesome one as "conducive to moderation and preservation of health."

Soon after this Pratap Singh, his father, and brothers were at Pali, some forty miles from Jodhpur, where there were a large number of pigs. He asked leave to go pig sticking, but was refused, as the going was very bad, he obtained permission, however, to accompany Jaswant Singh, but the spear was tabooed, only shooting from an elephant was allowed, and Pratap Singh was to remain a mere spectator.

This was much too dull a form of sport for Pratap, and when his brother took his seat in the howdah, he declined to follow suit, saying that he preferred his horse. Soon a pig passed close to him. The

temptation was too great; his father's orders were ignored, and he spurred after it with a four-barrelled gun, which he supported on his left arm when firing. His finger was on the trigger for his second shot, when his horse fell, and Pratap Singh was thrown on to his left side. The muzzle of the gun stuck in the ground, and in the fall he involuntarily pulled the trigger; the bullet burst through the barrel, having no other outlet, and wounded him in the arm, having luckily spent its force, without his being aware of it until he returned, from a fruitless chase after the horse, to pick up his pugaree and retic it, when he first noticed the blood and, pulling up his sleeve, saw the bullet sticking in his arm. He and two or three servants tried fruitlessly with hand and teeth to extract it, until one at length succeeded; the wound was tied up, and Pratap Singh started to ride home, but was attacked by faintness and a violent thirst, which, strangely enough, one small draught of water from the hollow of his hand was enough to assuage.

On reaching home Jaswant Singh and all the attendants feared an outburst of rage from the Maharaja; he, however, merely congratulated Pratap Singh on his first wound, saying that he was glad he had been hurt, the only regret being that it was by his own hand, and not that of an enemy, for to a Rajput a wound was no less a matter for rejoicing than marriage. He then had the wound cleansed with the frayed-out end of a small babul stick and wine poured into it; the pain was severe, but Pratap Singh gave not the least sign of it.

This incident preceded by a short time Pratap Singh's first marriage in 1860 to the daughter of Thakur Lachman Singh of Jakhan, a child of eight or nine; this early marriage was at the wish of his grandmother, a sister of the Thakur, who, herself childless, had adopted him as her son, and was desirous of seeing the marriage brought about during her lifetime.

After the marriage they were given no house to live in, so Pratap Singh continued to live with his father and the bride with her aunt, with no opportunities even to meet and talk.

When Pratap Singh, after the marriage, went to make the prescribed obeisance to his grandmother, and to receive gifts from her, she asked what he would like, and he replied "Only Rs. 50." Surprised at this modest request, she asked the reason, he explained that a man had a bay pony named Joban Chhat, which he would sell for that sum, and that it might be kept at her house and, incidentally, at her expense. He bought the pony, which he had chosen because of "its habit of kicking with the hind-legs and also of taking sudden turns. When riding it I could not help laughing at its tricks, indeed, several times I tumbled down from it while in the act of laughing." For a couple of years he allowed these tricks to continue, and then put an end to them by teaching it to trot, for "in teaching trotting the horse's mouth had to be strained upwards tightly, and in this condition it cannot kick behind!"

In 1863, when Pratap Singh reached the age of eighteen, he was out hunting one day with Maharaj Jaswant Singh and some attendants when a violent storm burst. The rain came down in torrents and so fiercely that, when the party took shelter in a neighbouring village, building after building collapsed, and they were forced to leave this insecure shelter and make for the house of their Uncle Gambhir, Thakur of Jhalamand, about three miles away, but the rain continued, the village and the Thakur's house were flooded, and a new refuge had to be sought. They crossed a small river in flood, Maharaj Jaswant Singh, who could not swim, on a Marwari mare well accustomed to water, and the rest swimming. The way to Jodhpur was barred by another river large and quite impassable, so they halted in the open on a small

mound. In every direction there was water; the rain still came down, until Pratap Singh and his companions began to think that Pralaya, the day of destruction, had come. Still the water rose, and, fearing that their mound would soon be submerged, the little band with much difficulty managed to struggle to a hill, which they reached about midnight; they remained there all night in the open, hungry and soaked to the skin, but able to see the funny side of it, in spite of their very genuine anxiety. The next morning they managed to shoot a couple of small deer, and to get a little coarse food from a village hard by, as well as some charpoys (beds) and matting from some carts, with which they improvised rough-and-ready tents; for a whole week they subsisted in this way. The village was very small and ill-supplied with even the necessaries of life, so that in the end they were reduced to the scanty fare which could be collected from each house.

Meanwhile their relatives, and indeed the whole of Jodhpur, were in a state of the greatest anxiety, and in the zenana they were already being mourned as dead, with weeping and lamentation. At last, on the seventh day, one of the search party, after wading nearly neck-deep in water, reached the further bank of the river, and climbed a tree, from which point of vantage he saw one of the missing men; as the river was still too deep to cross on horseback, half a dozen elephants were fetched, on which they were at length brought to safety, after which the indomitable Pratap recrossed in order to swim the horses over, a feat which was successfully accomplished, and the whole party returned to Jodhpur, where an enthusiastic welcome awaited them.

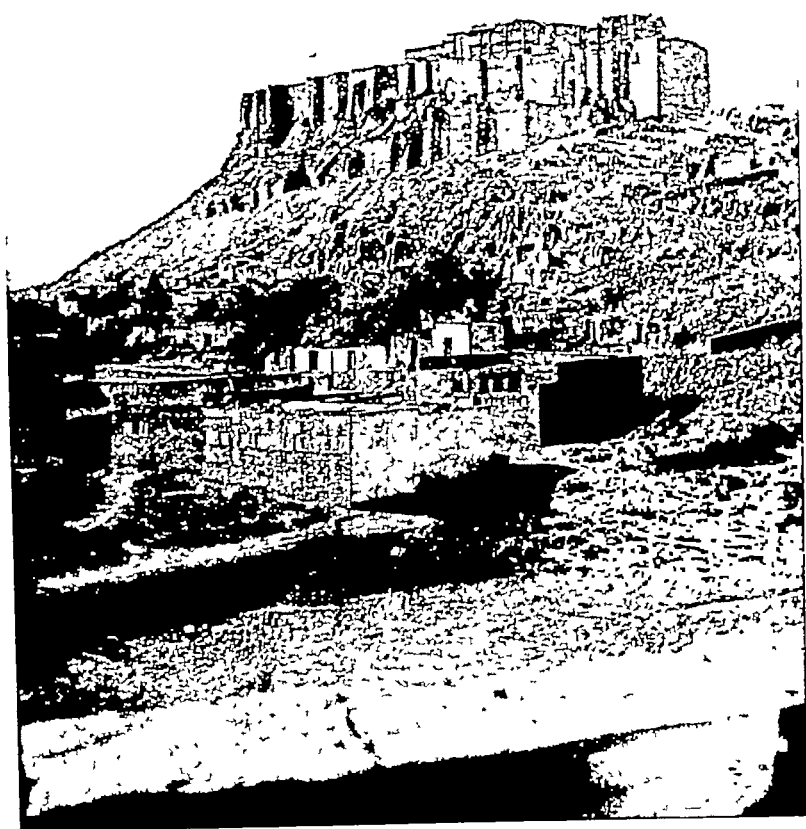
About this time his uncle, Thakur Gambhir Singh of Jhalamand, the father-in-law of Maharaj Zorawar Singh, was taken ill and, believing himself unlikely to recover, went to his relations in Jodhpur, where he

died in a couple of days. When the news reached his three wives at Jhalamand, two of them determined to commit Sati with him, and rode to Jodhpur for the purpose. On hearing of their intention the Maharaja was greatly troubled, for the Government of India had prohibited the practice, and were strictly enforcing their orders, he therefore hurried on the Thakur's cremation, and sent Maharajs Jaswant Singh, Pratap Singh, and Kishore Singh, a younger brother, to dissuade their aunts from their purpose. The body was half consumed when they reached the pyre and found the two wives preparing for immolation, the young men, weeping bitterly, threw their arms round them and endeavoured to stop them, but they were resolute, and, seeing their resolve was fixed, all save the three brothers fled from the scene, lest they be held accountable by the Government. In vain the brothers wept and appealed, the hearts of the devoted pair were steeled. With their own hands they collected fuel and placed it on the pyre, then, leaping on it from opposite sides, speedily mingled their ashes with those of their husband.

Sir Pratap himself dissents from the view that women in bygone days were made unwilling victims of the practice, he holds that in the hearts of the women of those days was a strong impression of the virtue of becoming Sati, and under its influence they joyously sacrificed themselves.

Those who have visited the Fort of Jodhpur will remember on either gatepost of the Loha Pol, the gate nearest to the battlements, the handmarks carved in relief of the ladies of the royal house who left their imprints there as they passed out to the supreme sacrifice.

Directly after the adventure in the floods followed the marriages of Pratap Singh and his father, the former took as his second wife the daughter of Thakur Chhater Singh, uncle of the Rawal of Jaisalmer, and



THE FORT, JODHPUR.

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Maharaja Takhat Singh espoused a sister of the Rawal Sahib. Both weddings took place in the Fort at Jaisalmer, an old-world city in the very heart of the desert, then a ten days' trek on horse- and camel-back of twenty miles a day, now motorable from the nearest station in a matter of ten hours; deer and small game were plentiful, and the journey a thoroughly enjoyable one. Close to Jaisalmer the Rawal came out to receive them mounted on an elephant, and welcomed Maharaja Takhat Singh, on another, very warmly. The auspicious hour for the double wedding was on the night of the arrival; the two processions started separately, Pratap Singh's, consisting of men under thirty, leading, and his father's, men over thirty, after an interval of 200 yards.

The following day Pratap Singh went down with a sharp attack of fever lasting for six days, which prevented him from taking part in any of the festivities except on the final day, on which he carried off the palm for shooting at earthen pots floating on a tank, and received as a prize from the Rawal a particularly fine gun which had been intended for Pratap Singh's father; however, the latter praised it so highly that Pratap Singh dutifully presented it to him, and it proved to be his favourite gun until the advent of the breech-loader. The parting gifts from the fathers of the two brides included some horses, which excited Pratap Singh's admiration, as well as wonder, that they should be found in Jaisalmer, where the camel to a large extent takes the place of the horse. It transpired that a special stud was kept there to improve the breed of horses, a plan of which Pratap Singh was to become a staunch advocate in his own state, and which he strongly commended to others.

Soon after their return the Commander-in-Chief of Bombay visited Jodhpur, performing the journey from Ahmedabad by road, as the railway did not

extend any further. A pig stick was held in his honour at Mandore, during which a wounded boar ran into the house of a cultivator, from which it charged and badly cut the horses of two men who tried to spear it. Major Nixon, the Resident, told Pratap Singh to go and kill it with his sword, as he had given his spear to one of the Commander in Chief's party. He accordingly rode nearly up to the door, where he stopped and allowed the boar to charge, when it reached his stirrup, he killed it with one blow across the loins, to the admiration of the Commander-in-Chief and other onlookers.

This marked the beginning of a close intimacy between Major Nixon and Pratap Singh, who was allowed by his father to accompany the Resident, his wife, and son on a tour through Marwar and Mallani. On their return Johnny (afterwards Major-General Sir John) Nixon often used to come to visit Pratap Singh, who was very fond of the little boy, indeed, he and his mother plied the child with Indian sweetmeats to such an extent that Mrs. Nixon had to ask that no more should be given in future, or the visits would be stopped. Pratap Singh used to encourage the boy's love of sport by killing partridges or quails and putting them in a tree, then he would take a small gun with a cap on it, hold it against Johnny's breast, and let him pull the trigger, Pratap Singh then retrieved the already dead bird, to the huge delight of the youthful hunter.

This was one of his earliest friendships with Europeans, to so many of whom he afterwards became very strongly attached, and by whom the development of his character was to become greatly influenced.

In the same year (1863) Maharaja Ram Singh made proposals to marry another sister, and also a cousin, of his present wife, Pratap Singh's sister, the marriages were duly solemnized, and the greatest harmony prevailed throughout their lives among the three



VIEW FROM THE BATTLEMENTS OF THE JODHPUR FORT.

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wives, an occurrence sufficiently unusual to merit recording.

The marriage party from Jaipur numbered some 20,000 people, and arrangements had been made for their entertainment every ten miles after crossing the borders of Marwar. Pratap Singh was sent to receive the bridegroom, who was on horseback clad in full armour, and conducted him to the place where Maharaja Takhat Singh, riding on an elephant, was waiting to receive him; prior to this Maharaja Ram Singh changed into his royal robes and mounted an elephant in his turn.

The spectacle was a brilliant one: on the one side the Jaipur 20,000 soldiers, officials, and people of all ranks; on the other all the Maharajkumars, Sardars, chief officials, court favourites, and a vast crowd of the populace of Jodhpur, a vivid kaleidoscope of colour. The two princes stood up in their howdahs to exchange courtesies, then side by side, with the bridegroom on the right hand, they made their way, preceded by their respective parties in procession; in front of the elephants were the Maharajkumars and Sardars, and in front of them richly caparisoned riderless horses, infantry, gunners, drummers, standard-bearers, and pipers, while behind came the state officials, cavalry, and many others.

On reaching the spacious camp prepared for the guests, Pratap Singh and his brother, Kishore Singh, were deputed to escort Maharaja Ram Singh to his tent, and later on to see their sister, Baiji Shri Chand Kunwar, his first wife; when she came to greet her brothers she performed the rites of Nicharawar by passing a tray or bag of money over their heads, and then passing her hand over their faces, in token of taking their misfortunes upon herself and thus bestowing her benediction. Etiquette demanded a similar courtesy from the brothers to the sister, but they had not expected to see her until later in the day, and were

not provided with the necessary gift, the only solution of the difficulty was to return the money just presented, which, according to custom, was distributed among some of the servants.

The marriages took place that night, and the entire city was picturesquely illuminated with Chinese lanterns and thousands of tiny earthen lamps containing wick floating in oil, giving the effect of a myriad glow-worms shining in the darkness.

The whole proceedings, both during the ceremonial itself and throughout the entire duration of the visit, contrasted most happily with the atmosphere of suspicion and discord which had prevailed on the previous occasion. To begin with, Maharaja Ram Singh sent a special messenger to beg his father-in-law's forgiveness for what had then happened, and requesting him to be present in person when the rites were performed. Takhat Singh sent a cordial and laughing reply that he would certainly do so, as, from the relations now existing between them, it was evident that he would not again have to sit as a hostage among the Jaipur Sardars.

When the great procession reached the Fateh Pol gate of the Fort the bridegroom, stopping his elephant, touched, four times with his sword and thrice with a staff of flowers, the "swan," a circular wooden frame over the doorway on which is painted a parrot, peacock, or some other bird not eaten by Rajputs. a lingering memento of the chivalrous days of the Kshatriyas, who, like the knights of old, before marriage were expected to give some proof of their valour in honour of their fair lady.

A deep and lasting friendship sprang up between Ram Singh and his wife's family. Much of his time was spent with Pratap Singh and his brothers; all attempts at formality were brushed aside on the grounds that between brothers there should be none. When smoking together he would laughingly take from them

the huqqa, saying that he would show them how to hold it for them; such simple and unaffected behaviour in a great prince was rarer in those days than a wider intercourse with the outer world has made it now, and made a great impression on young Pratap Singh. Ram Singh treated his father-in-law, too, with affection, blended with the respect of a son for his father, and a friendly argument often arose from his refusal to sit on the same level with Takhat Singh.

After the visit had lasted a month Ram Singh felt it time to return to his own state, and threw out the suggestion, first through his Dewan Pandit Sheo Singh, and afterwards in person; but Takhat Singh would not hear of it; a few days later it was again pleaded that the cost of feeding 20,000 people, together with elephants, camels, and horses, must be enormous, and permission was asked for the Maharaja to remain with one or two thousand, while the rest should return home. Takhat Singh objected that, if this were done, he would be accused of treating his guests in a parsimonious manner, to which they of Jaipur retorted that Ram Singh would be accused of making himself a fixture where he had been invited only for a visit, and of involving his host's state in debt; in fact, it would be necessary to depart by stealth if permission to do so were still withheld. Takhat Singh could not, in face of this, detain his guests any longer; accordingly, he held a great Darbar, which was attended by the Sardars, chief officials, and many others of Jaipur and Jodhpur. On all the men of Jaipur he bestowed the honour of Tazim (the returning by the Maharaja of the salaam, either rising or remaining seated); presents were given to each guest according to his rank—turbans, sirpesh (a jewelled circlet for the head), necklaces, pearl ear-rings, scarves for the shoulders or waist, coats, shirts, all of which were at once donned by the recipients.

Although Pratap Singh does not take a prominent

part in the recital of these events, they are worthy of narration, as throwing some light on customs which, if not dying out, have to some considerable extent been modified in the last sixty years, further, Maharaja Ram Singh by his simplicity and charm made his influence for good felt not only in Jaipur and Jodhpur, but throughout Rajputana, and it is to his example that Pratap Singh attributes much of the development of his own fine nature

CHAPTER IV

WITH JASWANT SINGH

UP to this time the relations between the Maharaja and his sons had been of an affectionate nature, but discord now began to enter into them.

The Maharaja of Rewah sent a dual proposal of marriage, for his sister with Maharaja Takhat Singh and for his daughter with Maharaj Jaswant Singh; the latter refused unless his father allowed him to take half of the five lakhs of rupees which accompanied the proposal. Although he had two wives and a large retinue, together with a considerable stable, he possessed no private means and received no allowance, so that he was reduced to borrowing; despite this, his father would not even give him one-tenth of the Rewah gift. Jaswant Singh therefore absented himself from the Darbar, which had been summoned for the ceremony of accepting the proposals, and went with Pratap Singh to a field hard by, where they used to play games; at the Darbar the two plates of Tika, a paste in which the finger is dipped to mark the forehead as a sign of acceptance, were in his absence accepted by Takhat Singh on his own behalf and that of his son, and the date of the marriage arranged. During this Darbar a Thakur from Jamnagar with a stroke of his dagger cut off the nose of a man from the same place against whom he had a grudge; the assailant hurriedly made his escape in the confusion which ensued, and donning the garb of a fakir, with the dagger concealed under his armpit, soon afterwards came to the place where Pratap Singh and

several others were playing their game. They, having heard meanwhile of the incident, recognized him, gave chase, and caught him, they haled him before the Maharaja, who sent him to his own state for suitable punishment.

About two months before the date fixed for the marriages, an allowance was made to Jaswant Singh by his father one hundred rupees a day for personal expenses, one thousand a month for maintaining fifty horses, and a hundred a month as pay for a Risaldar. Takhat Singh at the same time ordered Pratap Singh to go and live with his brother, to work under him, and to turn out, as opportunity arose, those of his entourage who were beginning to lead him into bad ways, Pratap Singh asked to be allowed to go to his brother every morning and evening, but to remain as heretofore with his father. Takhat Singh, however, was insistent, he also said that it was his intention shortly to appoint Jaswant Singh Yuvaraj or Prince Regent, and to retire himself to live in Jalore, a large district in the state, taking with him Pratap Singh, to whom he proposed eventually to make over the district in question. The young man, with a wisdom beyond his years, pointed out that this removal of the largest district would impair both the size and importance of the state, and also tend to breed ill-feeling between the two brothers, as for himself, he said that, if there were any capacity for usefulness in him, he could earn his livelihood in Jaswant Singh's service.

He accordingly took his abode with his brother, who announced that all were to obey Pratap Singh's orders. Money matters were left in the hands of Faizulla Khan, the official who had hitherto been in charge of them, but Pratap Singh looked after everything else for his brother, on his advice Wazir Ali, a pupil of his old riding master, Sheik Karim Buksh, was appointed Risaldar, and acquitted himself so well

that he was afterwards made Risaldar for the state, a post which he held with credit for many years.

Many of the companions of Jaswant Singh were, as has been said, of an undesirable nature, and, besides tempting him to drink and bad company, were always trying to bring about misunderstandings between him and his father; in order to allay this tension, which had been for some time in existence, a few days before the marriage parties were to start for Rewah, Pratap Singh advised his brother to join their father with only a few men, leaving him to follow with all the Sowars, horses, and attendants. When Pratap Singh came up with them a few days later he found that his plan had been successful, that a reconciliation had taken place, and a grant of Rs. 20,000 from the state treasury made to Jaswant Singh, while Zorawar Singh and Kishore Singh had each received Rs. 5,000.

Pratap Singh thereupon preferred a request for a grant also, but was not only told to ask for it from Jaswant Singh, whom he was serving, but was also asked to explain his delay in joining them. He was not unnaturally deeply chagrined at his father's unreasonableness, since he had only gone into Jaswant Singh's service reluctantly and in obedience to his father's command. He never asked and never ascertained the cause of this sudden change of front, but it brought to an abrupt and final close, all relations between them save those of a purely formal nature.

The party proceeded to Jaipur, where they halted for a few days, and thence made for Agra, accompanied by Maharaja Ram Singh and his zenana. Takhat Singh rode in a chariot, Ram Singh sometimes with him and sometimes on a camel, Pratap Singh on a camel, whose pack-saddle he used at night as a pillow, lying on the cushion from its back, with a Kabuli cloak of sheepskin over him; proper bedding he had, but bedding, while on the march, he scorned. He was in charge of the baggage—no light responsi-

bility—and with his own hands daily used to saddle Jaswant Singh's camel and his own

At Agra, Ram Singh prepared to return to Jaipur, and Jaswant Singh, after a lively argument with his father, was allowed to bear him company, since he flatly refused to marry the Rewah princess at any cost, pressed hard by Ram Singh also, Takhat Singh at length gave way, and proposed to extricate himself from the dilemma by substituting Kishore Singh as bridegroom, in place of his eldest brother.

This led to a heated altercation between the two Maharajas on his arrival at Rewah, the latter chief demanding Jaswant Singh or nobody, Takhat Singh declaring that a Rajput having once accepted a betrothal would die rather than relinquish the girl. After nearly coming to blows over it, they eventually came to an agreement by which Kishore Singh was accepted as bridegroom on condition that his father made a handsome settlement. It was stipulated that this should be laid down in writing, which was done, but the promise was never fulfilled by Takhat Singh.

Pratap Singh had himself returned from Agra to Jaipur with his brother-in-law owing to a wound he received through an exhibition of his fearlessness, arising from a challenge to his pride. One day several young men of the party were talking, and one said that, however brave a man was, he would, nevertheless, have a feeling of fear when threatened by the edge of a sword. Pratap Singh scouted the idea, and was promptly handed a drawn sword and told to throw it up and catch it by the sharp edge, if he dared. He did so, and cut his thumb severely, digging a hole in the sand with his other hand, he filled it with water, plugged the wound with mud, and plunged the arm into the water up to his elbow, but without stopping the bleeding. Maharaja Ram Singh was fetched, and the wound stitched up by a barber.

surgeon, and Pratap Singh was told to go back to Jaipur for treatment.

Perhaps that little piece of dare-devildom was unnecessary and reckless; it was none the less an example of the utter fearlessness which was a hallmark of Pratap Singh's character.

The better understanding between Maharaj Jaswant Singh and his father, which Pratap Singh had been instrumental in creating, was only of a temporary nature. A number of the Sardars and state officials, to further their own ends, lost no opportunity of widening the breach between the two.

The history of only too many Indian states bears testimony to the lack of progress and absence of law and order, which have been caused again and again by the lies and intrigues of men who pretend to serve their chief and their state, but whose real object is, by promoting dissension between members of the ruling house, to benefit by the consequent weakening of authority. It has been so for generations; it is so still, and only a ruler of strong personality can cope successfully with it.

In Jodhpur the previous generation had been a case in point; evil counsellors had poisoned the mind of Maharaj Chhatter Singh against his father to such an extent that the existence of the latter became a living death, and he hardly dared touch any food lest it were poisoned. With this ever before his mind, Pratap Singh strove loyally to insure mutual trust between his father and Jaswant Singh, and unselfishly refused to consider his own interests so long as he could serve his family and his state.

Matters were, however, going from bad to worse when the Agent to the Governor-General for Rajputana, Mr. Keating, hit upon a solution; he suggested that one district of Marwar be handed over to Jaswant Singh, so that he might, by administering it now, be better fitted for his greater responsibility

when he should be called upon to govern the whole state

The Maharaja agreed to this, and handed over the management of the Godwar pargana to Jaswant Singh, but before the latter departed to take over his new duties some of the mischief-makers put it into his head that he was being sent into exile, and would not be allowed to return to Jodhpur without leave from his father. Fortunately, Pratap Singh became aware of this, and speedily convinced his brother of the real reason for his appointment, and they started for Godwar without further ado. Pratap Singh actually was refused permission to go, but, in view of the previous orders to remain with his brother, and the fact that his services would be needed even more than before, he decided to disregard the order.

The district of Godwar was the most fertile in the whole of Marwar, being well irrigated by wells and producing abundant crops. But at that time this was more than discounted by the ravages of bands of Minas, a predatory tribe, who, making their headquarters in several of the villages, used almost daily to raid the neighbouring villages, until the whole district was in a state of panic, and the poor ryots were reduced to a condition of destitution, the position of the dacoits was greatly strengthened by the attitude of the Thakurs, or landed gentry, who gave them shelter and protection in return for a share of the loot, and immunity for themselves.

Maharaj Jaswant Singh, ably supported by his brother, at once set to work to put an end to this deplorable state of affairs, and wisely made their first objective the strongest of all the bands, which was under the protection of an insubordinate Thakur. They were completely successful, killing or capturing the entire band, and causing the Thakur to flee from his estates, in a short time they had purged the entire district of these pests and restored peace and prosperity

to the inhabitants, which gained for Jaswant Singh a letter from the Government of India acknowledging his services in this respect.

He added to his reputation by his indefatigable work in the time of the famine of 1868, when large stores of grain were distributed free to the sufferers, and further supplies purchased for distribution when his own stock was exhausted. Here, too, Pratap Singh took a leading part in organizing the distribution.

In 1870 the two brothers accompanied their father to a Darbar held by the Viceroy, Lord Mayo, at Ajmer, where all the chiefs and leading nobles of Rajputana had been invited to discuss the formation of a Chiefs' College. At the Darbar Maharaja Takhat Singh was placed below the rulers of Udaipur and Jaipur; he took umbrage at what he considered a slight, and refused to attend. Lord Mayo was so incensed that he ordered him to return to his own state the same day, and deprived him of his salute and beating of drums in his honour, so long as he remained under the jurisdiction of Ajmer. Jaswant Singh and Pratap Singh remained until the next day, when the Viceroy sent for them and praised the able way in which Godwar had been administered.

After five years had elapsed Jaswant Singh, accompanied by Pratap Singh, was recalled to Jodhpur, where the police and criminal work of Marwar were entrusted to him. He carried out these duties in a manner which caused the Agent to the Governor-General and the Resident to recommend that he should be given a still larger share in the administration.

With a view to arranging what additional powers he should hand over, Maharaja Takhat Singh proceeded to Mount Abu to discuss the matter with the Agent to the Governor-General; Pratap Singh, although barely recovered from an attack of typhoid fever, went with him to represent his brother's case.

His position was one of extreme delicacy. Owing

to Takhat Singh's advanced age, he had handed over his responsibilities to self seeking officials, and Pratap Singh firmly believed that both his father and the state would benefit greatly, if the administration were handed over entirely to Jaswant Singh, who had proved himself both capable and energetic, at the same time it was difficult for him, a young man, to state his convictions adequately in the presence of *his father, whose feelings he desired to avoid wounding*, and for whom he had the greatest respect

Pratap Singh proved true himself, having made up his mind which was the right course to pursue, he did not deviate. The interview resulted in Takhat Singh giving a kharita, or letter, to the Government to say that he handed over the entire administration of Marwar to his son and heir, Jaswant Singh. Pratap Singh was highly and deservedly complimented by the Agent to the Governor General of Rajputana for the way in which he had handled a difficult situation, and in a few days Jaswant Singh took over the reins of office

CHAPTER V

AT JAIPUR

PRATAP SINGH's questing spirit led him at this stage to seek experience under new conditions. He decided that his position as intermediary between his father and brother would sooner or later lead him into difficulties, and cause him to fall out with one of them at least; further, he was not on good terms with most of the men whom Jaswant Singh chiefly favoured, foremost among them being Faizulla Khan, always an uncompromising opponent of his. He decided, therefore, to accept the repeatedly given invitation of Maharaja Ram Singh, and attach himself to him for a few years, so that he might benefit by constant association with such a wise ruler.

Failing to get his brother's permission to leave Jodhpur, Pratap Singh entrusted his family to the care of his grandmother in the Fort, and set off alone by night, taking with him nothing more than a spare horse. After three days' journeying he arrived at Jaipur at night, and was greeted by the gate-keeper with the respect due to one of high rank. Pratap Singh told the man that he was mistaken in this, unrolled his blanket, laid it on a plank on the ground, and calmly went to sleep. In the morning the mere mention of the name Pratap Singh was enough, and word of his arrival was sent to the Maharaja.

The greeting between the two was affectionate, and Pratap Singh was received with every mark of honour, the Maharaja coming to meet him as far as the kitchen gate, and refusing to let him present Nazar at his feet.

On retiring to bed that night Pratap Singh found a couch had been provided for him, so he lay on it, but before long fell on to the floor, as he often did from a bed, so laying his bedding on the ground, he spent the rest of the night there

As usual, he was out and about daily by five o'clock, and had been for a ride and got through the bulk of his day's work before Ram Singh, who was late into bed and late out of it, had got up. He then used to send for Pratap Singh and discuss with him any matters of interest, at ten they performed their puja (daily worship), for in those days Pratap Singh's religion was of an orthodox nature. They had only one meal a day, at three in the afternoon, and it may be they did full justice to it.

Jaswant Singh had lost no time sending messengers to Pratap Singh instructing him to return to Jodhpur, but Pratap excused himself on the ground that he wished to see the world and gain experience, he promised, though, that he would go back if anything of an urgent nature should make his return advisable.

Maharaja Ram Singh himself was not fond of hunting, but after Pratap Singh had been with him for about a month he found that keen sportsman had, out of deference to his host, shown no desire for sport, he was now told to go out and kill a boar forthwith. The armoury, however, could produce only spears, which Pratap Singh describes as "rickety, good enough for show and brandishing about, but no use for purposes of hunting." Pratap Singh set about making one for himself by splitting a bamboo at the end, inserting a strong knife blade, and binding it tightly with string, others of the same pattern were made by his orders.

He went off with some of the Rajkumars, who wanted to use guns instead of spears, but he sternly refused to allow this.

It happened that their victim was a poor, lean

beast, which the Maharaja found fault with, but Pratap Singh told him they had killed the first they saw, and having orders to kill one only had returned home; this had the possibly intended effect of gaining him permission to hunt to his heart's content.

Maharaja Ram Singh showed the high opinion he had of his brother-in-law by pressing him to become a member of his State Council, but Pratap Singh refused, since his ultimate return to Jodhpur precluded him in his own opinion from taking any responsible part in the work of another state; he refused, too, the Fort of Lalsut, a Jagir with a revenue of one lakh, since he had no intention of making Jaipur his permanent home. Tempting offers both, one would say, to a man under thirty, but Pratap Singh was never one to put his own welfare before that of the state in which his heart was bound up.

Finally, he became the Maharaja's companion, was paid from his private purse, and was consulted in matters of every kind. Many Europeans, then as now, used to visit Jaipur, and all arrangements for their entertainment were entrusted to him. He formed a great friendship with Sir Edward Bradford, who was first in charge of Thagi and Dacoity in the state, and afterwards became Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, before he was called to England to take up the post of Chief Commissioner of Police in London. From him Pratap Singh learnt many things which were of value to him in his after-life, and he tells us that he met very few Europeans to equal him; the friendship was renewed when Pratap Singh visited England in later years.

Maharaja Ram Singh went to Simla when Pratap Singh had been with him only a short time; it was towards the end of April, and Pratap Singh, accustomed only to the hot and arid plains of Rajputana, laughed to himself at being told to take warm clothes. They proceeded to Ambala, and from there to Kalka

by shigram. Pratap Singh was to ride up to Simla, and was not best pleased at being told to put on a warm coat before they started, he found it far from pleasant at first, but ere they reached Kasauli he was thankful indeed for its warmth, and before their destination was reached, he was wishing for a larger supply of warm clothes than his wardrobe contained.

At Simla Pratap Singh attracted the attention of Lady Mayo in a curious way, which is best given in his own words "One day I was riding my horse when Lady Mayo came from the opposite direction in a Japanese chair. As she passed by me I was making my horse dance, that being a favourite sport of mine. She smiled at the sight, and the next day we met again at the same place, when I was riding at a gallop. Her Excellency sent Colonel Burke, Aide-de-Camp to the Viceroy, telling me to make my horse dance again. I could understand English a little, and I realized that the performance was to be enjoyed as a fun, and so it did not appear to be the proper thing for me. I felt very much ashamed, nevertheless, pursuant to Her Excellency's command, I went through the operation at the time. But from that day I gave up using a country made saddle and the particular kind of horse I was riding, and I learnt the lesson that I should also give up feeling interested or amused in things which were taken by others as fun."

How he must have hated it!

Maharaja Ram Singh at this time developed cataract, first in one eye, and then the other, but it was necessary to wait until he visited Simla the following year before the operations could be performed, on the advice of the Viceroy this was done by Dr. Macnamara of Calcutta, and proved completely successful, the doctor receiving a fee of five thousand rupees.

While at Simla, Pratap Singh received the news that Maharaja Takhat Singh had again fallen out with

Jaswant Singh, and was about to deprive him of the administration of Marwar, and hand it over to the British Government.

The reason was that Jaswant Singh had made a determined attempt to put an end to the anarchy and maladministration of the former régime; naturally the corrupt officials, who had revelled in it, were incensed at the reforms and discipline introduced by Jaswant Singh, and lost no opportunity of fomenting the ill-feeling, never properly allayed, which his father had borne him for many years. Pratap Singh did not hesitate, but left for Jodhpur at once. So great was his anxiety to reach there before things had reached an irrevocable stage that he rode, changing horses where opportunity afforded, from Jaipur via Ajmer to Jodhpur, a matter of 250 miles, in twenty-one hours. This at the hottest time of the year, too!

His mount for the last stage was a sorry beast, which broke down completely half-way; he was quite alone, and there was no place at hand where the horse could be left, so he "took a piece of stick, with which he pushed the horse onward," and completed the stage on foot. On the way he found a Mahomedan lying under a tree parched with thirst and utterly exhausted; Pratap Singh divided with him the store of brandy and water which he carried, and encouraged him, so that he went his way with a good heart.

When Jaswant Singh had explained the situation to his brother, Pratap Singh presented himself before his father and urged him to reconsider his determination. He pointed out that, though the Maharaja could, of course, do as he liked and his will was paramount, even if he was bent on taking the administration away from Jaswant Singh, he had other sons, one of whom might be capable of doing all that was required, and it would be a blot on the family escutcheon if they were all passed over and the Government called in. Moreover,

he himself was of opinion that Jaswant Singh had done excellent work, and if any misrepresentations had been made, he was sure that personal investigation by the Maharaja would remove all his misgivings. This very sensible advice was acted on, and the matter was dropped for good and all, the Maharaja then left for a visit to his friends at Mount Abu.

This departure was utilised by some of the schemers to further their own ends; Maharaj Zorawar Singh, at the instigation of one of his uncles, seized the strong fortress of Nagore, with a view to making himself master of the whole of that district. He was persuaded to this act of treachery by his uncle's assertion that Maharaja Takhat Singh had gone to Abu to arrange for the administration to be taken out of Jaswant Singh's hands, and made over to the British Government, and that this was a good opportunity to seize one or two districts for himself, he was speedily joined by some rebellious Thakurs and a number of men from the predatory tribes.

Pratap Singh was on the eve of departing for Jaipur when the news reached Jodhpur, the Maharaja returned post-haste from Abu and sent a peremptory order to evacuate Nagore and return to Jodhpur. The order was not only disregarded, but Zorawar Singh's uncle, with consummate impudence, came by night on a camel to the gate of the Jodhpur Fort and shouted to the Maharaja that Zorawar Singh was only claiming what was due to him, and should be allowed to keep Nagore, he then made good his escape, although Pratap Singh, with several others, hastened in pursuit.

After consultation with the Resident, Major Impey, it was decided to put down the rebellion by means of the state troops. Accordingly, the Maharaja, Jaswant Singh, and Pratap Singh, accompanied by the Resident, took the field without more ado, and encamped a few hundred yards from the city of Nagore.

Zorawar Singh gave no sign of submitting, so an inspection of the troops was held, in order to ascertain their fitness for fighting.

It must be understood that these were not the well-trained, disciplined troops which so many Indian states now maintain, but a motley rabble composed of bodies of retainers of numerous Sardars, each fighting under their own overlord; Pratap Singh, owing to his residence at Jaipur, was without any men of his own, but was placed at the head of Jaswant Singh's 200 horsemen. The Maharaja asked Major Impey who should be placed in command of the army, and received the discouraging reply that he did not see anyone capable of controlling such a miscellaneous body of men wearing divers colours; however, then catching sight of Pratap Singh, he added that he was probably capable of doing it.

With the full concurrence of Jaswant Singh, the Maharaja then proclaimed that the chief command had been entrusted to Pratap Singh. The new Commander-in-Chief summoned a few of the Sardars to his quarters, and ascertained that the state troops had received no pay for several months; the Maharaja had luckily brought a lakh of rupees into the field, which Pratap Singh asked for, and was able with it to discharge all arrears the same day, and put a better heart for fighting into his men.

The question of uniform then came under his consideration. The army was divided into companies, each wearing its own uniform, and he feared that, in the heat of battle, friend might mistake friend for foe; he therefore ordered that all their loin cloths should be dyed saffron. This was not only sensible, but a clever move, for when a Rajput goes into battle wearing saffron, he will die before turning his back on the enemy.

The desired effect was produced, for Zorawar Singh lost heart and made overtures to his father, declaring

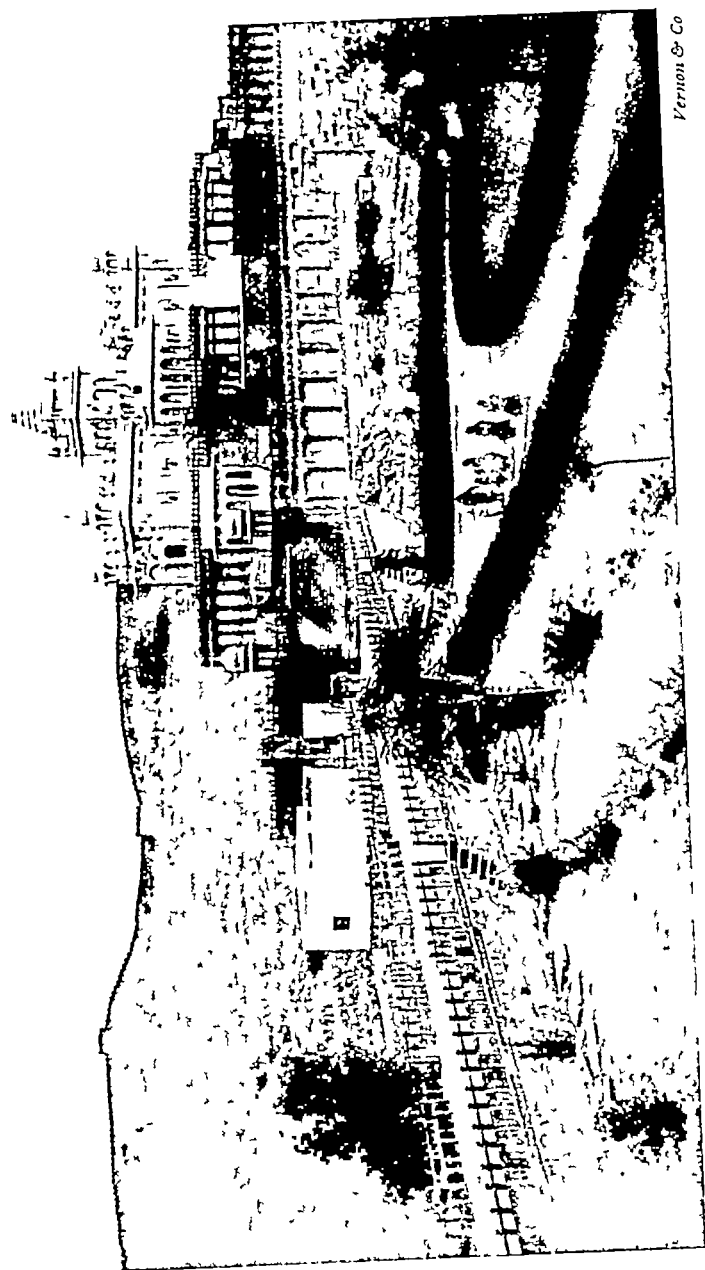
himself ready to beg for forgiveness at his father's feet provided Pratap Singh was not present, otherwise he feared a quarrel might arise between them. The Maharaja then ordered Pratap Singh to absent himself from the Darbar, and was asked if this was the reward of being made Commander-in-Chief, he replied that it should rather be taken in the light of a compliment, in that Zorawar Singh was afraid to appeal in his presence.

Zorawar Singh duly humbled himself, and Pratap Singh asked leave to bring the affair to a satisfactory finish by arresting the rebellious Thakurs, who, if left unpunished, would pillage the district as soon as the state forces had departed. Takhat Singh preferred to release them, believing they had received lesson enough, but the young commander was right, and it was not long before they gave trouble again.

Zorawar Singh, by the advice of the Resident, was sent to Ajmer to be kept under the surveillance of the British Government, but before his departure one of the rebellious Thakurs contrived a meeting with him at the house in which he was kept under guard, Pratap Singh and his brother, Kishore Singh, heard of this and, quite unarmed, arrested the rebel, who was put in prison by the Maharaja's orders.

Very soon afterwards the officiating Residency surgeon, Dr Hendley, discovered that Takhat Singh's lungs were seriously affected, and warned his sons that his condition was very grave, any chance the doctor's treatment might have had was nullified by the Ranis, who, in their anxiety, were too impatient for an immediate improvement, and kept administering medicines prescribed by native physicians in addition.

The end was not long deferred. On the afternoon of his death he told Pratap Singh to have a leech applied to his throat in order to relieve the pain, he was furious at being told that it was against the doctor's orders,



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THE CENOTAPH OF THE MAHARAJAS OF JODHPUR.

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and asked whether his or the doctor's orders were to be obeyed; he gave way, though, on the advice of Dr. Hendley himself. Nothing could be done now to save him, and he died that same night.

All the necessary rites were performed by Pratap Singh, as custom does not allow the heir to do so; he remains at the place where the death occurs. Takhat Singh was the last of the rulers of Marwar to be cremated at Mandore.

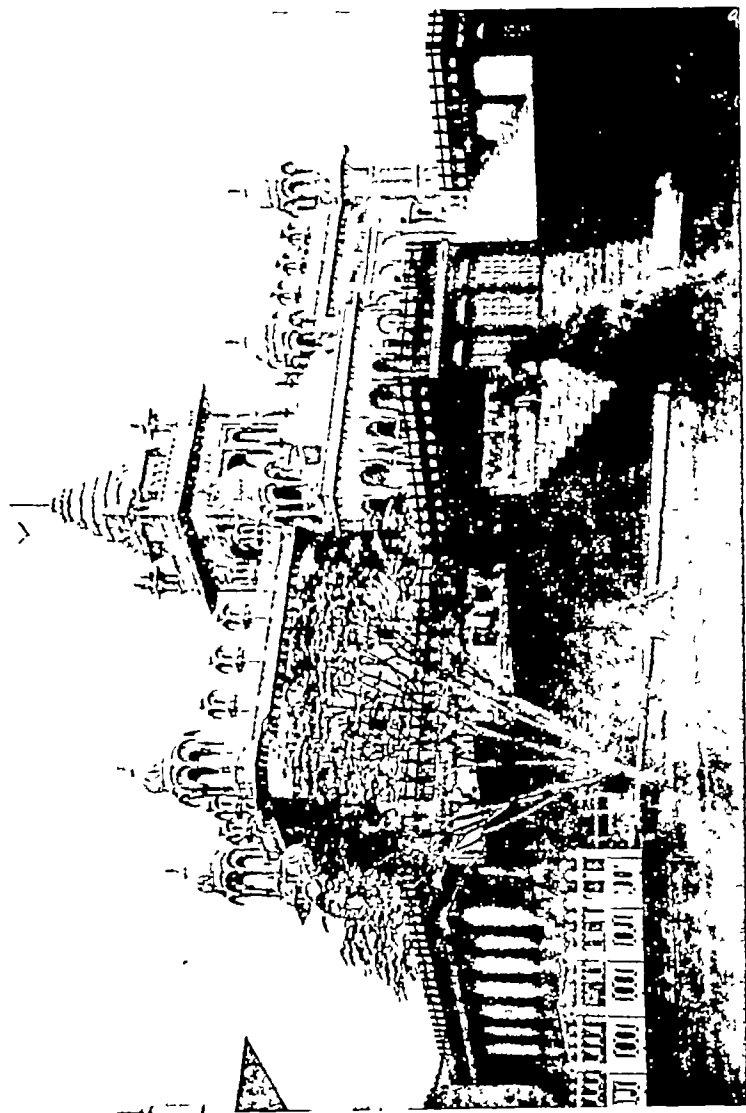
After the twelve days of mourning were finished and all the customary rites observed, Maharaja Jaswant Singh took his seat on the white marble chair in a courtyard of the Fort and, in the presence of Colonel Walter, now Resident, and all the chief nobles and officials, he received the Raj Tilak mark of royalty on his forehead, his formal recognition as Maharaja; this took place in 1873. Maharaja Ram Singh came from Jaipur to pay a visit of condolence, and before he left married yet a fourth daughter of the late prince; there were, of course, under the circumstances, no pageantry and no celebrations to speak of in connection with this marriage. Ram Singh returned to his own state, taking Pratap Singh with him.

Now that Jaswant Singh was on the throne, Pratap Singh's old enemy, Faizulla Khan, was made Prime Minister, with practically the entire charge of affairs. His first step was a cunning move to bring Pratap Singh into discredit; he asked Maharaja Jaswant Singh to persuade him to remain in Jodhpur and to take charge of the civil work of the administration. Pratap Singh was wise enough to see that his experience in this branch of work was not yet enough to give him a chance of grappling with it successfully in its present disorganized state, and that he would only endanger his reputation by accepting it. He therefore, despite his brother's further appeal, remained firm in his refusal of the offer. He tried for the same reason to dissuade Maharaj Kishore Singh from taking over

supervision of the criminal and police work, the latter, however, chose to undertake the duties

While at Jaipur Pratap Singh nearly fell out with his brother-in-law when they were in camp about ten miles from the city. As has been said, the Maharaja was a late riser, and one morning Pratap Singh decided to ride to Jaipur and back before Ram Singh had got up. Riding alone through the jungle, armed only with a spear, he saw a panther, to which he gave chase, the animal turned and escaped up a hill. Pratap Singh concealed himself, and after about an hour the panther returned, when it had gone about a quarter of a mile in the open, Pratap Singh dashed off in pursuit, ran it through the body, and killed it, after it had rent the spear in fragments. Owing to this delay he returned straight to camp and told the Maharaja what had happened, thereby arousing his anger, his words "did not appear pleasant" to Pratap Singh, who rode off then and there to Jaipur with the intention of returning to his own home. Through the good offices of a leading Thakur of the state he was persuaded to return, when he apologized, and explained that he had not gone out with any intention of hunting, for it was this which he believed to have been the cause of the Maharaja's anger. In this idea he was wrong, for Ram Singh explained that if anything had happened to Pratap Singh he himself, in whose care he was, would be disgraced in the eyes of Jodhpur, for not providing him with attendants to look after him. Mutual compliments were then interchanged, and the breeze passed over.

A strange thing happened about this time. One evening the Maharaja was performing his evening prayers in the temple, while Pratap Singh and several others were sitting outside, when the sky became overcast with crimson clouds from the north, all were filled with wonder, and some astrologers who were on the spot were asked to explain the meaning of the



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THE CENOTAPH: A NEARER VIEW.

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phenomenon. In about an hour's time they gave it as their interpretation that some harm was to befall the Emperor of Delhi; this was taken to mean Lord Mayo, the Viceroy, and the astrologers further declared that danger menaced the highest English official in the land. The next morning a telegram arrived from Colonel (afterwards Sir) Owen Tudor Burne, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, saying that His Excellency had been assassinated by a Pathan in the Andaman Islands.

In the cold weather of 1875 H.R.H. Albert Edward, then Prince of Wales, visited India, and Pratap Singh accompanied his brother, Maharaja Jaswant Singh, to Calcutta to take part in the reception, and had the honour of being presented to the Prince.

It was impossible for Jodhpur to be included in the royal tour, for no railway ran there, but Jaipur was more favoured. It is not surprising to learn that all the arrangements for shikar were entrusted to Pratap Singh, but the plans he had laid so carefully were brought to naught. The royal party arrived on the Saturday night, and on that night Pratap Singh contrived to ring in four tigers with a fence in the jungle; he then sent word early in the morning that all was ready. Great was his dismay when he was told that there would be no sport that day, as it was Sunday; he appealed in person to the Resident, Colonel Baidon, and the A.G.G., Sir Alfred Lyall, pleading that such good sport was not likely to be had again, but all to no purpose.

The next day he was ordered to provide sport for the party, but the four tigers had betaken themselves to fresh jungles. With some difficulty another tiger was found, and the Prince's first shot wounded it in the belly; it ran a short way and then hid in the jungle. Pratap Singh pointed out the spot, whereupon the Prince got on an elephant to give it the *coup de grâce*, Pratap Singh being bidden to sit behind him.

Conversation was a difficult matter, since the Prince could not speak Hindustani nor Pratap Singh at that time even the English, so peculiarly his own, of his later days, by signs, then, Pratap Singh indicated the tiger's position, and, sure enough, when the elephant approached, it jumped up. The Prince fired and missed, fired again and hit it, the tiger leapt into some bushes and disappeared. A hyæna ran out of the bushes, and the Prince, not getting a clear sight, and thinking the tiger was only wounded and was escaping, wanted the elephant to follow, others of the party shouted to the mahaut to go to the place where they believed the tiger lay. The Prince, thinking he was losing his tiger, called out to the Resident that Pratap Singh would not carry out his orders, on being bidden to do as the Prince commanded, Pratap Singh proved obstinate. He considered that the quarry came before obedience to orders, and was, moreover, nettled at the rebuke just received, he therefore slid down the hanging rope on to the ground, leaving the cartridge box in the Prince's lap. Armed only with a dagger he advanced to the bush, to find the tiger lying there dead, delighted at the news, the Prince came up and smilingly complimented Pratap Singh on his courage and the correctness of his judgment. At lunch afterwards Pratap Singh made his first acquaintance with chartreuse, which he describes as "a wine, green in colour, and sweet in taste, and served in tiny cups."

At the state banquet that night Maharaja Ram Singh presented H. R. H. with a gold huqqa, which he prepared for the royal guest with his own hands.

The next year or two passed uneventfully. Pratap Singh learned much from the wise administration and fine character of his brother-in-law, and so fitted himself for the larger spheres which the near future held for him.

In 1878 he attended the great Darbar at Delhi, when

Queen Victoria formally assumed the title of Kaiser-i-Hind, Empress of India. He was struck by the fact that the seats for the chiefs at the Darbar were arranged so that the greater and lesser chiefs alternated, and were in form of a crescent, the Residents being seated behind them. In those days, when travelling was not the easy matter it is now, when princes, not to mention politicians, can visit all parts of India in a very short time, such a Darbar was very beneficial in bringing together rulers who otherwise would never have met. At this Darbar Pratap Singh received his first medal, a gold one showing the head of the Queen-Empress.

CHAPTER VI

SUPPRESSION OF DACOITS

Soon after the Delhi Darbar Maharaja Jaswant Singh sent a letter by reliable messenger asking Pratap Singh to return to Jodhpur and help him to put the administration of the state on its feet. His Prime Minister, Faizulla Khan, had been a failure, and things were going from bad to worse. The loan of thirty lakhs, which had been advanced by the Government of India, had been frittered away with nothing to show for it, Jaswant Singh felt that this state of things could not be allowed to continue, and, after consulting the Resident, Colonel Walter, he determined to get Pratap Singh's assistance. Maharaja Ram Singh tried very hard to dissuade him from going, he laid stress on the fact that Faizulla Khan would not take his deposition tamely, that his hostility to Pratap Singh would be of the bitterest, and that with his great influence and large following, Pratap Singh's position would be made unenviable, if not impossible.

Pratap Singh, however, saw quite clearly where his duty lay, while admitting all this, he argued that the position was very different now. Formerly Faizulla Khan had been high in favour with the Maharaja and the European officers, now he was discredited in the eyes of both. In any case, his brother had called him, and it was his duty to answer the call. Maharaja Ram Singh saw that he was resolved to go, and made no further attempt to stop him, they parted with mutual regret, for the years they had spent together had deepened the affection and respect which they had always entertained for each other.

Pratap Singh took his family with him to Jodhpur, and was appointed Prime Minister; but on the very next day a telegram was received from Sir Alfred Lyall, now Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, announcing that he had been appointed to join the Kabul Mission, and asking for an immediate reply. The Maharaja made no objection, but Pratap Singh exacted a promise from him before the reply was sent to Simla that he would not change his mind and afterwards refuse his consent.

Orders were shortly received that Pratap Singh was to join General Chamberlain at Peshawar; he lost no time in his preparations, and was ready to start the next morning, but was delayed for twenty-four hours by investigating a double murder committed by Kifait Ulla, brother of Faizulla Khan, who had killed a female relative and a fakir who was her paramour. He arranged for a full inquiry to be made during his absence, but asked the Maharaja not to allow judgment to be passed until his return. This arranged, he set off, and reached Peshawar two or three days before the General. He knew nobody, but was received with great courtesy by Major Prinsep of the 11th Lancers, who made all arrangements for his food and accommodation and, which doubtless appealed far more to Pratap Singh, lent him a pony for polo. One day during a game an officer crossed him, and his pony came down with Pratap Singh under it. Major Prinsep came to the rescue, and also took the offender to task; but Pratap Singh, with his innate sportsmanship, said that there had been nothing to find fault with, and that such things often happened in a game.

On General Chamberlain's arrival the mission started. At Jamrud Colonel Cavagnari, two officers of the guides, and Pratap Singh set out for Ali Masjid; they were met near the Fort by a message from the Governor to say that, by orders of the Amir, further advance was prohibited.

Colonel Cavagnari demanded to see the Governor, who, on receiving this reply, came out about fifty yards from the Fort, while Colonel Cavagnari advanced about the same distance from his little band. A brief parley took place, which only confirmed the previous message, the orders were to prevent the further progress of the mission.

There was nothing for it but to turn back, and that night they reached Peshawar. General Chamberlain was summoned to Simla, and Pratap Singh also was telegraphed for.

When it was decided that General Roberts should march on Kabul, Pratap Singh applied to be made one of his A.D.C.'s, to which the General agreed if the Viceroy approved of the appointment. That night at dinner His Excellency told Pratap Singh that he would gladly have consented, and fully sympathized with his anxiety to take part in the expedition, but that he was now the chief officer of the Jodhpur State, and the Maharaja had pressing need of his services, it was therefore advisable for him to return there as soon as possible.

Accordingly, he left Simla and reached Jodhpur to find Jaswant Singh in a state of great anxiety about his only son, now four years old, who was dangerously ill, the child's death the following morning was a great blow to the father, and it was indeed fortunate that Pratap Singh had returned.

One of his first acts was to look into the case of Kifait Ulla Khan, which he had left orders was not to be settled before his return. He found there had been a gross miscarriage of justice, in the absence of Pratap Singh, Faizulla Khan had used his influence to secure the acquittal of his brother. He had refused to testify himself, and had induced some witnesses to make false statements, and had suppressed the evidence of others altogether. He had yet to learn Pratap Singh's determination, the case was retried, Faizulla Khan

was ordered to place the Koran against his head and swear to tell the truth, when he admitted that the wounded fakir on the way to hospital had told him Kifait Ulla had made him drink some strong acid and then tried to kill him with great brutality. Other witnesses followed suit, and the guilt of the accused man was proved.

Faizulla Khan, in a desperate attempt to save the situation, gathered all the Mahomedans in the city to his house, and collected arms for them in order to oppose by force any attempt to arrest his brother.

Pratap Singh acted promptly and with firmness. Kifait Ulla was summoned to attend the court immediately and state his case; Faizulla was warned that, unless this order was complied with, it would go ill with him as well as his brother.

Maharaj Kishore Singh, now Commander-in-Chief of the state forces, was bidden to have his troops in readiness, and guards were posted at the gate of the court to search Kifait Ulla for arms. After a brief consultation with their friends, the brothers decided to submit, and Kifait Ulla repaired to the court, where the wisdom of placing guards to search him was proved by the discovery of a dagger concealed in his armpit.

Seeing that his case was now hopeless, he admitted his guilt; but, in view of the provocation caused by the misconduct of the murdered woman, he was not sentenced to death, but a sentence of fourteen years' imprisonment was passed on him, which was confirmed by the Maharaja. Being a Sardar, he was confined, not in a gaol, but in the slave court of the Raj Mahal.

This assertion of Pratap Singh's authority, and the proof it gave that law and justice were no longer to be a dead letter, had an excellent effect on the people, while it was a severe blow to the prestige of Faizulla Khan and his chief adherents.

Pratap Singh now turned his attention to the suppression of two powerful bands of dacoits, which

had been harrying two of the districts for a long time past and defying all attempts to keep them in check

On the frontiers of the state a number of Sardars, headed by the Rana of Loyana, had been oppressing the country-side, the ryots were completely cowed, and all measures taken to bring the band to book had failed

Pratap Singh determined to break up this organized system of pillaging, he himself took charge of the operations, and, though the task was no easy one, succeeded in capturing the ringleader, who was taken to Jodhpur. On Dasera day, when practically the whole population was at the mela (fair), the prisoner managed to escape, but Pratap Singh gave him no rest, hunted from place to place, he found no safety anywhere, and was driven to take refuge in another state, where before long he died

His death broke up the confederacy entirely, and left Pratap Singh free to devote his attention to another gang of dacoits operating in the district of Bararwa on the eastern side of Marwar. Their method was to rob travellers on the very highways of the district, and then, on horses and camels, make for their headquarters, success gained them so many adherents that they were able to drive off a force of state troops, which had been sent against them.

So strong were they that the Maharaja was reluctant to allow Pratap Singh to adventure against them, deeming that an extremely large force would be required to have any hope of success. Pratap Singh reassured him, 100 Sowars would be enough, he said, but the attack was to be kept a profound secret

They started one day in the rain and practically unnoticed, so little did they know of their destination that twenty of them, who were some way ahead, took the wrong route altogether. On went Pratap Singh with the rest until they came to Kuchaman, where the Thakur, meeting them, asked where they were

going. "To Jaipur," said Pratap Singh, and went his way.

He was ignorant of the exact whereabouts of the village he was making for, and was himself compelled to ask at each village they came to, since he feared that some of his men might belong to the same clan as the dacoits and, finding the call of blood stronger than that of duty, get warning to them.

It was only when close to the village that Pratap Singh disclosed his objective. No time was lost; the village was quickly surrounded, and the Thakur, who was the leader of the dacoits, and his band of ten to fifteen men prepared to sell their lives dearly. Pratap Singh called to the Thakur to surrender, pointing out that he was hopelessly outnumbered and resistance would be futile. While the attention of the dacoits was centred on him, his men had crept in to close quarters and rushed the defence; four men seized the Thakur and used him as a shield, so that his followers were afraid to fire, and in a few minutes the entire gang had been secured without any casualty.

An amusing thing occurred while the dacoits were being rounded up. One of them took refuge in his hut and crawled under the bed. Pratap Singh, entering in pursuit of him, was confronted by his wife, a woman of the Jodha clan, who stood with a drawn sword by a mare; she told Pratap Singh that he was welcome to take a husband brave enough to hide under the bed, but the mare, which she had reared herself, she would allow none to touch.

The woman's spirit, a striking contrast to that of her husband, strongly appealed to Pratap Singh, who with true Rajput courtesy replied: "Sister, I do not wish to take your mare, but if you like you may have my horse." She then asked to what clan he belonged, and, hearing that it was the same as her own, was greatly pleased. "Truly I am your sister," said she; "so leave this mare."

Pratap Singh reassured her, but at this point the poltroon husband, hauled from under the bed, began leaping and dancing about frantically crying that his family honour had been disgraced, Pratap Singh drew his sword and handed it to him, drily saying, "Take this then and, if you are a man, kill somebody," a retort which reduced the blusterer to silence.

While this little scene was being enacted, three of the dacoits escaped, but were quickly recaptured. The entire gang were given a term of imprisonment, after which grants of land were made to them, and they settled down to peaceful pursuits.

The rounding up of these two bands and the check to the influence of Faizulla Khan's party produced an excellent impression on the general public of Jodhpur, for it proved conclusively that the Raj not only intended to enforce law and order throughout the realm, but was in addition fully able to do so.

Although Faizulla Khan had been worsted in his last encounter with Pratap Singh, it must not be supposed that he retired altogether from the contest, he never ceased trying to prejudice his adversary in the eyes of the authorities.

On one occasion the Government of India had made pressing representations to the Jodhpur Darbar to arrest and hand over a number of men who had committed robberies in other territories and then taken shelter in Marwar. This could only be done by the co-operation of the Sardars and Jagirdars within whose territories the criminals had taken refuge, and this was rarely forthcoming.

Pratap Singh therefore issued an order that all Sardars and Jagirdars should hand over to the state authorities all criminals who might seek shelter in their jagirs.

Faizulla Khan seized on this opportunity to instigate some twenty of the leading Sardars, always intensely jealous of any interference with their prerogatives, to

petition Colonel Bradford, Agent to the Governor-General, against the order.

Failing, apparently, to appreciate the situation at first, this officer wrote to the Maharaja saying that, as Pratap Singh was still inexperienced, His Highness would do well to examine all his orders personally before they were issued; however, as a result of a visit and explanation from Pratap Singh, his vision was clarified, and he wrote again to say that the order was a proper one and fully justified.

Another time Faizulla Khan artfully contrived to get the Maharaja in a weak moment to write to the A.G.G., complaining of the strictness of Pratap Singh's régime, which he declared was very unpopular throughout all classes, and recommending that he should be deprived of his office for a time, and somebody else appointed in his stead.

Faizulla Khan was leaving nothing to chance, and presented the letter to Colonel Bradford in person, laying great stress on the Maharaja's dissatisfaction with his brother. The Agent to the Governor-General, seeing through this, asked whom the Maharaja wished to appoint as Pratap Singh's successor. "Me," came the prompt answer.

The Agent to the Governor-General burst out laughing, and said: "Tell the Maharaja from me that, if he is dissatisfied with Pratap Singh, he may dismiss him, and if, as you say, he is extremely dissatisfied, he may hang him. But I am not going to write anything against Pratap Singh."

He afterwards told the latter what had happened, so the next time Pratap Singh met Faizulla Khan, he asked with mock humility why Faizulla was so kind and why he did not like him to remain in Jodhpur, which put Faizulla out of countenance.

At this juncture the Resident, Colonel Powlett, to whose wise precept and fine example Sir Pratap owed much of his success in life, went on leave, and the

officer who acted for him seems to have lacked both tact and judgment, he was easily hoodwinked by the wily Faizulla into forming a totally erroneous opinion of Pratap Singh, and openly declared that he did not consider him a fit man to administer the affairs of the state

The proud spirit of Pratap Singh could not brook this, and he promptly tendered his resignation, which was as promptly accepted, the return of Colonel Powlett about a month after was the signal for Pratap Singh's immediate recall to the office, which it was realized he should never have been driven to vacate

On his return to Jodhpur he speedily found occupation. The unruly Bhil and Mina tribes had been giving trouble once more in the Godwar district, and the Maharaja had sent one of Faizulla Khan's satellites to ask the Agent to the Governor General how best to stop their depredations, the messenger, asked how he proposed to deal with the matter, replied confidently, snapping his fingers, "Sir, I will do it in this fashion in the twinkling of an eye" This was quite enough for the A G G, who told the Maharaja that a man who relied on the snapping of fingers to effect his purpose was not likely to be of much use, and it was ultimately decided that Pratap Singh should take the matter in hand

He undertook to restore law and order, and to bring the ringleaders to justice within two months. Accordingly he took up his quarters in the Godwar district, whence all the state business was dealt with by him, while he made his preparations carefully and without undue haste

His inquiries showed that the trouble was engineered by about half a dozen men, one of whom he captured in the Karim Hills beyond the Luni River, by him, eventually, was furnished a complete list of all the dacoits and badmashes in the district

On the pretext of hunting one day, he contrived to

surround a village which was known to harbour a number of dacoits; it was noon, and most of the villagers were resting through the hottest hours of the day. By announcing to the Jagirdar that he had come to arrest one Padia, who incidentally he knew was not there, he was allowed to make a thorough search of the village. He pretended to take a census, while really checking off on his list the dacoits present; he found that two of the seven leaders were away. It was not his intention to allow any to escape, so he withdrew from the village as if he had no further interest in it. But few days had passed ere he collected all the Bhils and Minas of the district, and charged the seven with having raided the huts of some railway coolies, a charge which he knew had no foundation.

The accused, secure in their innocence, demanded to be confronted with the man who had brought this false charge; Pratap Singh asked them to accompany him to his house, where their wish should be gratified.

They fell into the trap. In the presence of the mock informer Pratap Singh said: "Have you committed this crime or not?" A chorus of denials answered him. Quickly he countered with: "You have certainly plundered the village of Kotla." Taken by surprise, after a feeble show of ignorance, they admitted their guilt and were arrested forthwith.

After this the re-establishment of normal conditions was an easy task, and Pratap Singh returned to Jodhpur, with his mission satisfactorily completed, well within the prescribed time.

CHAPTER VII

PRATAP SINGH, ADMINISTRATOR

PRATAP SINGH was now able to initiate sorely needed reforms in many branches of the administration of Marwar. Despite the improvements made by his brother during the last years of Maharaja Takhat Singh's rule, the condition of nearly every department was still deplorable, speculation and incompetence were to be found on all sides, and nearly all the officials seemed to aim at filling their pockets with a maximum of speed coupled with a minimum of labour.

For the first time Pratap Singh had a real chance to prove how well he had imbibed the wise and statesmanlike teachings of his brother-in-law, Maharaja Ram Singh, and the then Resident of Jodhpur, Colonel Powlett. By example as well as precept these wise counsellors had grafted on to his naturally fine abilities many of the best qualities of a statesman. Among these, the curbing of a proud and hasty temper was not the least achievement, the credit for which Pratap Singh always ascribed to the influence of Maharaja Ram Singh, indeed, he often in later life likened himself, before their close intimacy, to a bulldog ready to fly at the throat of any with whom he chanced to feel annoyance.

As for Colonel Powlett, the wonderful example which he set Pratap Singh, his simple, manly, and straightforward mode of life, left an impress on Pratap's character which never faded. Colonel Powlett lived a most ascetic life, and self-indulgence in any form was entirely foreign to his nature. Pratap

Singh was devoted to him, and on his periodical visits to England in after years, would make a point of seeing him and touching his knees, as a mark of his respect and devotion.

To those who were privileged to know Pratap Singh, it will be no surprise to find him ascribing no share in his development to his own fine nature and iron will, but giving from his generous heart all the credit to these two fine personalities who took so large a share in the moulding of his character.

His first important step was the reform of the treasury. At that time the well-known firm of bankers, Seth Sumer Mul Umed Mul, acted as treasurers for the state. All collections from the various sources of revenue were deposited with them, and all amounts needed for expenditure were drawn from them.

This resulted in a very considerable loss to the state. In the first place, the bank charged interest on advances at the rate of one per cent. per month; secondly, when money was paid in, a certain percentage was deducted as discount; thirdly, a further discount was charged on withdrawals, even though made on the very day of deposit.

Using the name of the Seth Sahib as a cloak, most of the state officials were unacknowledged partners in the firm, so that, when Pratap Singh proposed to put an end to an arrangement so undesirable by opening a state treasury, his proposals were naturally greeted on all sides with contempt and ridicule.

He stuck to his point in spite of the clamour, obtained a loan of five lakhs from the Seth's bank, and in 1881 formally opened the state treasury.

From this all salaries and disbursements were made; into this all the revenues were paid. He was rewarded ultimately by the state finding itself in a position to clear off a debt of 60 lakhs, and to continue to make progress on a sound financial basis, which it has never

abandoned, and which finds it in 1925 with a revenue of 1½ crores and a surplus over expenditure of more than 31 lakhs

This resulted in a sad depletion of the erstwhile heavy purses of the officials, many of whom, smarting under a stroke so grievous, became bitter life-long enemies of the stern reformer. In order to counteract the obstacles which they attempted to put in his way, Pratap Singh, with the approval of Government, secured the services of Munshi Hardayal Singh.

This gentleman, who came from the Kangra district of the Panjab, was for a long time secretary to Pratap Singh, he was now placed in charge of the treasury and the courts, and fulfilled his arduous duties faithfully and well.

The question of land settlement had for long enough been crying out for attention, in Marwar there were a large number of petty Jagirdars who paid no revenue to the state, in addition to these, many villages had been given to men of no position at a mere whim of the Maharaja, generally at the instigation of an official who, courting power and popularity, welcomed an opportunity of adding to the number of his supporters by exerting his influence on their behalf.

As an instance of this, when the Maharaja was in the very act of starting for the Delhi Darbar of 1878, Faizulla Khan induced him to make grants of about a hundred villages to various people, and obtained his signature to the documents at the moment of departure, a device only too familiar to the harassed Indian officer of the present day.

There were, in consequence, very few villages paying revenue direct to the state, and such few as there were had been mainly given out on lease, a method which extorted the uttermost farthing from the luckless ryots, while it was little more than the farthing itself which found its way into the treasury.

Thus the total income from land revenue was no more than five lakhs in all, and much of this even was in arrears; nor was there any system of collection, so Pratap Singh applied to the Government for the loan of two officers, Captain Loch and Mr. Hewson.

To the former was entrusted the work of land revenue and settlement. For Jagirdars holding only one or two villages pensions were fixed, and their holdings were transferred to state ownership.

The Ranis of the Raj Mahal in the Fort had certain villages, managed by their own agents, of which they were supposed to receive the revenue; the only thing which the agents "managed" was to divert this revenue into their own pockets.

In lieu of this, cash allowances from the state funds were now made to the Ranis, and the villages became khalsa (state) land.

Whenever possible newly created Jagirdars were compensated with cash payments, and their land reverted once more to the state.

This arrangement relieved the Jagirdars of the responsibilities and expense of management, while the ryots were not ground down to the same extent as heretofore, and lastly the state revenue receipts were doubled in a short time—a distinct feather in Captain Loch's cap.

In 1882 a regular Customs Department was inaugurated by Mr. Hewson, a most capable and popular officer.

Hitherto customs dues had been realized in the most haphazard way; most of the Jagirdars had instituted their own rates without the least consultation with their fellows, so that not only did the state exchequer suffer, but trade was greatly hampered as well.

It was now ordained that customs should only be levied at the frontiers of the state, and separate duties for separate districts were abolished; these reforms

had the happy result of stimulating trade and increasing the customs receipts from two to eleven lakhs in a very short time

Pratap Singh, as is well known, had a great affection and admiration for Europeans, and has left it on record that most of those who took service in Jodhpur were honest and industrious men for whom he entertained the greatest respect, but he refrained from writing anything in praise of them lest it should savour of flattery, as most of them were still alive. Alas ! that record was dictated more than twenty years ago, and the words he might have spoken are now for ever withheld

Of Mr Hewson, who does not come under this category, for he only lived until 1888, he speaks in the highest terms, " being impelled to do so by the recollection of his high abilities and exceeding goodness of soul "

One Christmas he and Pratap Singh were at Loyana. It was a common custom then on ceremonial occasions to present Dalis, or baskets, of fruit and flowers (sometimes even gifts of greater value) to European officers, indeed, all the Rajputana states had their Vakils or representatives at the seat of the Agent to the Governor-General, and presented, on his visiting their state, a Dali with a cash present of one thousand rupees to each member of his party. This custom was an expensive one for the states, and was abolished about the period under notice by Sir Edward Bradford.

According to custom, Pratap Singh sent his friend a Christmas Dali of fruit and flowers, but Hewson returned it, coming in person to explain that, as a servant of the state, he did not think it proper to accept the gift. " To be sure," said he, " it is Christmas Day, and I shall be glad to have a peg of whisky at your palace ", which he did, and then took Pratap Singh back to his own quarters to return the compliment, lest he should remain under even that small obligation

Another time the Maharaja saw Mrs. Hewson in an ekka, which she was driving herself. He thought it reflected on him that so worthy an officer as Hewson should have nothing better than this primitive conveyance; he accordingly informed him that he was placing at his disposal a state carriage, which would be kept at his house. Hewson did not like to give a point-blank refusal, but subsequently induced Pratap Singh to persuade the Maharaja to withdraw his offer, saying that he did not wish to take a single pie from the state beyond his salary.

Hewson was afterwards appointed tutor to Maharaj Kunwar Sardar Singh, the heir-apparent, who lived with him at the only bungalow Jodhpur then boasted at Paota, close to the present "Ship" house.

In 1888 he died suddenly, to the great regret of the people of Jodhpur; the Maharaja, indeed, on hearing the news, flung his arms round Pratap Singh's neck and wept bitterly.

His name was given to the Hewson Hospital and the Hewson Girls' School, which were founded in memory of him.

Even after his death his influence was felt, as when the Rev. Dr. Sommerville, after vain attempts to establish Christian missionary work in Jodhpur, begged Mrs. Hewson to intercede with the Maharaja for a site for building. This was granted unhesitatingly solely as a tribute to his dead friend.

In 1883 Pratap Singh set about the reorganization of the excise; in common with most of the other state departments, such regulations as it possessed existed only to be evaded or defied.

No limit had been fixed to the number of distilleries, with the result that these had sprung up in all directions, in many cases quite untaxed.

Most of the Thakurs and Jagirdars levied excise taxes for their own benefit, so that there was neither control of the drink traffic nor revenue accruing from

it to the state. The department was formally constituted in 1883, and four years later the state was divided into four excise districts, all under a Superintendent, rules and regulations were drawn up, a regular assessment of all the distilleries was made, penalties against illicit stills were rigorously enforced, and in a short time the state benefited from this source to the extent of a lakh a year.

A valuable asset to the state is the large salt lake at Sambhar on the eastern border, and during the reign of Maharaja Takhat Singh an arrangement had been made with the Government relative to the production of the salt and the annual sum which was to be paid to the state for handing over its right therein.

This had proved unsatisfactory to both sides, and the Maharaja deputed Pratap Singh to negotiate a fresh settlement.

He proved fully equal to the task, and the new settlement, which met with the approval both of the Government of India and the state, now provides the latter with an income of fifteen lakhs from salt alone.

The same period, 1881-1887, which saw the inception of these important reforms, was marked by the birth of an undertaking which was to exercise a very powerful influence on the social and commercial development of Marwar.

For a long time past the Maharaja had eagerly longed for the construction of a railway in his state, and in 1881, when he was paying a visit of condolence to Jaipur on the death of his great friend, Maharaja Ram Singh, he went very fully into the matter with Sir Edward Bradford, the A G G. Both the Maharaja and Pratap Singh were far-sighted enough to see that, though the initial cost of a railway would inevitably be heavy, the ultimate benefits to be derived from it would more than compensate for the outlay.

The officials of Marwar, on the other hand, advocated a cheap tramway, which would yield no profit to

the state, and would benefit the city of Jodhpur only.

As was to be expected, the will of the Maharaja prevailed, and the services of an engineer were obtained from the British Government, under whose direction a railway line was constructed from Kharchi (now Marwar) Junction to Pali; the line was extended from Pali to Jodhpur at the low construction cost of Rs. 20,000 per mile. On his departure for England he was replaced by Mr. Home, who proved a zealous and capable officer; many of the public buildings were designed and built by him, though the credit for by far the finest, the Mekhma Khas, or state offices, goes to Sir Swinton Jacob, whose artistic and beautiful design is at least equal to that of any building of modern times in Rajputana. Home, too, started a Public Works Department on a sound basis.

The success of the railway encouraged further extension, and a branch was constructed to Pachpadra, a distance of nine miles, with the view of facilitating the salt traffic; some forty years later, at the moment of writing, the decision to close the Pachpadra salt workings has just been arrived at, the results being now no longer sufficiently profitable.

Two more highly important branches were constructed—one from Jodhpur to Bhatinda, chiefly through Bikaner territory, and another from Luni across the Sind desert, abhorred of travellers, to Hyderabad (Sind).

Jodhpur was in this way linked with Ajmer-Merwara in one direction, and with Ahmedabad and Bombay to the west through Marwar Junction; Sind, Karachi, and Quetta were all eventually made accessible from Luni, and the route to the Panjab was appreciably shortened by the Bhatinda branch.

The Jodhpur and Bikaner Darbar now came to the conclusion that a line under their joint management would best serve their mutual interest, and in 1889 the

amalgamation took place. From that date the line has been known as the Jodhpur-Bikaner Railway, until the spring of 1925, when, after protracted negotiations, each state took over the management of its own portion.

Pratap Singh in this matter gave evidence of his power to shake off the conservative, not to say reactionary, train of administrative thought which was so marked a trait among even the most highly educated men of his time in Rajputana, and his far-sighted policy has enriched the state by an income which in 1924-25 totalled not less than thirty lakhs of net profit, as well as by the benefits derived from intercommunication with other people and places.

The condition of the city of Jodhpur was the next matter to which Pratap Singh directed his attention.

For the most part the streets were narrow, all of them were filthy and evil-smelling; of sanitation there was none. To remedy these grave defects a Municipal Committee was created in 1884 with Maharaj Bhopal Singh as President and Munshi Hardayal Singh as secretary. The Maharaja proved his interest by an annual donation of Rs. 10,000 from his privy purse.

The control of the conservancy and sanitation was placed in the hands of the Chief Medical Officer, then Lieutenant-Colonel A. Adams, I.M.S., under whose direction a conservancy light railway was constructed for removing the refuse of the city to a discreet distance.

Pratap Singh states that these arrangements proved of great benefit to the residents of the capital, which we can well believe, although it was the residents of that same capital in 1916 who sent urgent telegrams to the Viceroy and the Government of India demanding the restoration of certain time-honoured and highly unsanitary privileges which had recently been prohibited by the Inspector-General of the State Police.



Lowry & Co.

THE FORT AND BAZAAR, JODHPUR.

To face p. 72.

of Sardars and Ahalkars (officials) The road to the camp at Paota was lined by Jagirdars and their retainers, a cavalry squadron from Erinpura acted as escort, with Pratap Singh and his great friend, Thakur Hari Singh, of polo fame, riding in their capacity as A.D C's on either hand of Lord Dufferin's carriage

A pig-stick had been arranged at the express desire of His Excellency, whose skill and straight riding, despite advancing years, greatly impressed Pratap Singh

Lady Dufferin witnessed the sport from an elephant, and afterwards visited the Ranis; after dinner their Excellencies and the Maharaja played billiards, and the well known player, Stanley, gave an exhibition of his skill

At the state banquet the following night Lord Dufferin paid a well deserved tribute to the loyalty and courage of the ruling house and their clan, the Rathores He afterwards eulogized the administration, specially mentioning the extirpation of the marauding bands and the provision of a pure and wholesome water supply to Jodhpur

That the Viceroy and Government of India were fully aware of Pratap Singh's responsibility for the administrative progress of Marwar was shown by his receiving the title of K.C.S.I. in the course of the same year, an honour which he had highly merited

Education had always taken a prominent place in his thoughts, and the exceedingly backward state in a matter of such importance was patent to all

On Pratap Singh's return from Jaipur in 1878 there were no more than five schools with a total of 400 boys in the whole state, he soon caused this to be raised to eleven schools, with a total muster-roll of 600 In 1886 he instituted a Department of Education Schools were opened in the districts, until before long these numbered twenty six, giving instruction to 2,300 pupils

A school was started for the sons of Thakurs and Jagirdars of the state which, in honour of the Resident, was named "The Powlett Nobles' School," from which it was intended that the boys should proceed to the Chiefs' (Mayo) College at Ajmer.

The boys were brought up under the eye of Sir Pratap, who spared no pains to inculcate in them the virtues of courage and manliness. One of the sports in which they were trained was that of wrestling with a panther. The beast, a full-grown animal, was securely muzzled and had strong leathern gloves fastened over its feet, but even thus handicapped it was capable of giving an extremely good account of itself in a rough-and-tumble.

The boys were taught from their earliest years that they *must* cry with shut mouths, silently; then they were applauded and praised. If they opened their mouths and roared, they were soundly smacked into the bargain.

These boys were lucky indeed to have the advice and example of one whose knowledge of wild animals and their habits was unique, only equalled by his courage and daring. For example, he would creep into a cave where a tiger was known to be lying up and light a match or candle; as the tiger sprang to the light he would quietly blow it out and crouch down, so that the beast jumped clear over him.

It is probable that book-learning played a secondary part in the training, but until his departure for Idar there was not a boy who did not profit by and thoroughly enjoy it.

Another school was opened in the same year with the object of fitting its students to enter state service. An examination was held on completion of the course, and those who passed were to be provided with appointments.

Unfortunately—until very recently, indeed—the educational policy of the state, after this promising

start, has mainly been one of stagnation, although from time to time spasmodic attempts, sometimes educationally unsound, have been made to raise the level of education. Frequent changes of administration, generally involving a change of policy, and apathy of the general public have had much to do with this, but there are clear signs of a brighter future.

Take the cases of the two schools mentioned above. The former passed through many vicissitudes and was housed in many buildings, ranging from a deserted palace to coach houses and syces' quarters, the number of pupils eventually dwindled to one boy, who, report has it, was generally absent. It was Pratap Singh himself who, on his return to Jodhpur as Regent in 1911, rescued it from total eclipse, as we shall see in due course.

The other school was less fortunate, and passed away with hardly a struggle for existence at an early age.

In 1886 Sir Pratap was called upon to deal with a couple of dacoits of the Mina tribe, whose depredations in Marwar and the adjoining territories had struck terror into the luckless inhabitants.

One, Ghatia, seems to have been but a scurvy rogue, but the other, Padia, was a villain of parts and almost worthy to be classed with the celebrated Tantia Bhil, he was brave, resourceful, and chivalrous, as well as a born leader.

Special police were put on his track, and Sir Pratap himself made several attempts to capture him, but he proved for a long time too elusive. A past-master of disguise, he would appear as a Sadhu, a coolie, in the motley garb of a fakir, and many another dress, appearing sometimes fifty miles from the scene of yesterday's exploit. Though unsuccessful in running these two dacoits to earth, Sir Pratap made the pursuit so unrelenting that they finally wearied of the life of the hunted and determined to seek for pardon at the feet of the Maharaja.

With this intention they set out for Jodhpur, but, stopping to rest at a village wine-shop, Padia exceeded the bounds of moderation. The pusillanimous Ghatia left him in a helpless condition, and made his way to Jodhpur, where he gave himself up to Sir Pratap, with what result history does not relate.

Padia, when sober again, betook himself to Gujarat, under the impression that Ghatia intended to betray him, and worked there as a coolie until he was tracked down. He escaped to Ahmedabad in the guise of a fakir; there he joined two dacoits from Sirohi, one of whom was offered a large reward by the police if he would enable them to capture Padia, but there was honour among thieves, and the three made for Godwar, where they began to plunder. On one occasion they robbed three Mahajans (large traders), and followed up the feat by ambushing a company of Banjaras (grain merchants) and relieving them of property worth 6,000 rupees.

In the *mêlée* one of the other dacoits shot down two of the Banjaras. Padia, with a chivalry unusual among gentlemen of his fraternity, refused to take more than a modest sixty rupees as his share of the loot, and returned the rest, saying that he had no wish to snatch the bread from the mouths of the innocent women and children in the company.

He was once surrounded by a strong posse, but, although shot by his betrayer in the arm, "he shrieked so loud, and jumped up and down and hither and thither so frantically, that they all fled in fear, and he slunk away quietly."

On another occasion he snatched a gun from the hands of a Sepoy of the Darbar, but was subsequently seized with remorse, decided to return it, and actually did so by thrusting it into the hands of an executive officer in the midst of a crowd.

Finally, Sir Pratap once more took up the chase in person, and Padia was laid by the heels. When the

news of her son's arrest reached his mother, she merely uttered curses on him for not having killed himself when cornered.

He made a full confession, acknowledging to thirty-three dacoities. He was sentenced to be hanged, and on the day of execution he cheerfully mounted the scaffold, and put the rope round his neck with his own hands. "The Darbar made excellent arrangements for his funeral, and sanctioned an adequate provision for his survivors."

CHAPTER VIII

FIRST VISIT TO ENGLAND, 1887

IN 1887 occurred what to Sir Pratap was thus far undoubtedly the greatest event of his life. He was deputed by the Viceroy to go to England as the bearer of the congratulations of Jodhpur to Her Majesty Queen Victoria on the occasion of her Jubilee.

Before his departure it was arranged to mark the great occasion by:

A gift of Rs. 15,000 to the Imperial Institute.

Laying the foundation stone of the beautiful Raj Courts, the Mekhma khas, built to the design of Sir Swinton Jacob at a cost of over three lakhs of rupees.

The presentation of portraits of His Highness and the Maharaj Kunwar to Her Majesty as Nazars.

The release of prisoners, a review of troops, a salute of 101 guns, and local celebrations.

Long before the day of the Jubilee Sir Pratap had made his first trip to Europe. Realizing that his inability to speak English and his ignorance of English life would place him at a very great disadvantage, he wisely asked the Government of India to allow an English official to accompany him. Accordingly, Captain Bruce Hamilton, A.D.C. to Lord Reay, was directed to act as his mentor. Thakurs Hari Singh and Roop Singh were also members of the party.

He sailed on the *Tasmania*, and was fortunate enough to have Sir Edward Bradford as a fellow-passenger. By his help and that of Captain Hamilton he managed to pick up a little English during the voyage.

No one who had the privilege of knowing Sir Pratap will ever forget the wonderful language which he ultimately evolved for himself. His constant association with Europeans for the rest of his life should have enabled him to speak English both well and fluently, had he so wished, but his knack of summing up the situation in a most apposite and original phrase of broken English proved so entertaining to his hearers that he clung to it throughout his life.

Those who should know best tell me that he was never a scholar, and could not have improved his English. One wonders!

His quaint sayings have been treasured by four generations of our Royal Family, and the number of good stories attributed to him must rival those laid, rightly and wrongly, at the door of the celebrated Dr Spooner.

At Suez he disembarked and proceeded by land to Cairo, leaving on board his luggage, which included about three lakhs' worth of jewellery, doubtless to be worn in honour of the Queen whom he revered, for jewellery is the last thing one would associate with him.

After Cairo he visited Constantinople as the guest of the British Consul, where he saw the procession of the Sultan, who went in state every Friday to the Imperial Musjid.

Thence to Vienna, which by its beauty appealed to him more than any other city in Europe with which he became acquainted. "At Vienna," Sir Pratap relates, "one day we were at breakfast, and Captain Bruce Hamilton was reading a newspaper, when all of a sudden his face was spread over with pallor, and his whole appearance indicated deep distress. I feared there was some bad news from Jodhpur which he was not willing to communicate to me before breakfast, and so I pressed him to let me know why he looked so pained.

"He informed me with the greatest regret that

the ship *Tasmania* had been drowned, and that my clothes and jewellery left with the Captain had probably been lost. He continued that, if I had not got my things insured, my loss must be great.

" ' You seem to be very anxious about my clothes and jewellery,' I replied, ' but don't you feel concerned about your friend, Sir Edward Bradford? No regret need be felt for money and things, for these can be secured afresh, but a friend, if lost, cannot be replaced; a life gone is irrecoverable.' "

A wire was sent to the port where the ship had sunk offering £1,000 for the recovery of the jewellery. Divers proved successful, as it was in an accessible spot, but nothing else was salvaged.

News of Sir Edward Bradford's safety was received, and Sir Pratap departed for Paris, where Captain Hamilton had taken rooms for a week; but he reckoned without Sir Pratap, whose opinion of the gay city is an interesting, though very sweeping, criticism of its numerous places of architectural beauty and historical interest.

" I did not like the city at all," he comments. " With the exception of certain lanes and alleys, no other portion of the city appeared to me to be worth seeing. Apart from this, the moral atmosphere seemed to me very noxious. As a rule, seekers after pleasure resort there. On this account I got disgusted with the city in three days, and expressed my desire to leave for England at once.

" The Captain pressed me to complete a week, as money had been paid to the hotel for that period and no refund would be made. But I said I did not care for money, but was more anxious to preserve my sense of self-respect. It is not proper for men of high birth and good breeding to stay in such a city.

" Accordingly we left Paris, and reached London by way of Dover. The steamer which took us across the Channel was small and light, and tossed about

a good deal. All the other passengers had to take vomiting pots before them, but, strange to say, none of us three, though it was our first voyage, felt any desire to vomit at all.

"In London," he continues, "we took quarters at the Alexandra Hotel, which directly overlooked High [sic] Park. Every sort of comfort was provided there, and the management being excellent, nothing was left to be desired."

Sir Pratap, whenever the choice of residence in London was left to him, remained faithful to the Alexandra, and stayed there on many subsequent occasions.

"As the suits of clothes I had brought from India had all been lost with the ship," he goes on, "I was anxious what to do for clothes, where no tailor could be found to prepare Indian suits."

"The Jubilee was near at hand. At last by good luck a way was found."

"Lady Rosebery happened to hear from some source that my clothes had been drowned, and that I was hard up for Indian suits. A short time previously she had got out from India some pieces of high priced khinkhab, and out of these she presented four pieces to me. Captain Bruce Hamilton tried much to pay the price, but Lady Rosebery would not accept it. But although the cloth was obtained, no way was visible to get it made into dress. I went to a number of 'gentlemen's tailors,' but they all expressed their inability to prepare suits in Indian style, as they could not understand the cut. At last I betook myself to a 'ladies' tailor,' and giving a suit of mine, asked him to make another after that pattern. With great difficulty, and after a number of trials, he succeeded in preparing suits as desired. He felt special difficulty in making Pajamas (breeches), for they were altogether a novel thing to him. From that time, however, the Jodhpur style of Pajamas became famous as 'Jodhpur

breeches,' and day by day it has gone on increasing in popularity. Although there was so much difficulty in getting my suits made, when ready they fitted me very exactly. By this time I believe there are many tailors' shops in London where suits in Indian style are prepared."

Looking back to the manners and customs of 1887, it can hardly be a matter for surprise that a "ladies' tailor" should be puzzled by the cut of Jodhpur, or any other, breeches!

Sir Pratap found a number of old friends in London; his courtly manners and delightful personality speedily gained many more for him. Invitations were showered upon him, and he rarely took any meal, save breakfast, at his own expense.

The record he has left of his first interview with the great Queen-Empress illustrates very clearly the love and reverence with which he always regarded his sovereign and the members of the Royal Family, but it was not easy to Sir Pratap to lay bare his deepest feelings, and he only too often leaves us a somewhat bald and colourless account of occasions when he was in reality most deeply moved.

In this case there is a simple beauty about the brief narration of an interview which remained one of his most sacred memories until the hour of his death.

He says: "Four or five days after my arrival, the august Queen-Empress Victoria was pleased to send for me, and in obedience of the command I presented myself before her. Reaching near her, I made my salute in the Indian fashion, placing my sword on the ground; then advancing close I kissed her gracious hand extended to me in English style, and immediately raised it to my eyes. For some minutes Her Majesty kept talking with me, asking particulars about the voyage, and expressed regret at the drowning of the ship. . . . All the English officers present were

astonished at the eccentricity of this salutation, and after the reception was over interrogated me about it. I explained to them that, according to Indian ideas, it was thought ill to salute one's master with arms on, and so I had placed my sword on the ground. Further, that after kissing Her Majesty's hand, I raised it to my eyes, because there is nothing dearer to a man than his eyes. This explanation seemed to satisfy everyone."

A few days after he attended a review of British troops, at which the Prince of Wales, mounted on a very fine horse, was present with his staff, the same day His Royal Highness appointed Sir Pratap to be one of his Aides-de-Camp, and presented him with the aigrette, which the officer generally has to purchase. Many years afterwards Sir Pratap says "This aigrette is still with me, and although it has become so very old, I wear it often as a token of honour."

Distinctions were now showered on him. The same day he was gazetted as an honorary Lieutenant-Colonel in the British Army, and very soon afterwards he was placed on the staff of the Queen. He was in attendance on Her Majesty when Nazars were presented to her by the Indian princes who had come to attend her Jubilee, and, for this reason, he had brought no gift with him, being under the impression that another opportunity of presenting his Nazar would be afforded him.

His account of an averted contretemps runs "After the names of all the Indian princes had been announced, and the Queen had taken a view of the offerings placed on the table, my name was called. I was extremely puzzled what to do, but suddenly remembered there was the 'Sirpesh'¹ on my head. No sooner thought than I broke the string by which it was tied, and as I was standing very near Her Majesty, with both my hands lowered I offered the Sirpesh as

¹ A golden ornament set with jewels for the head or turban.

my Nazar. Her Majesty took it up with her own hands with evident satisfaction and made it over to the Duke of Connaught."

This action of Sir Pratap caused considerable comment, and he was asked by Lord Cross, Secretary of State for India, why he had done it. He explained what had happened, and was commended for his resource.

Later in the day Sir Pratap's cup of joy was filled to overflowing. "In the evening when the Queen came to the royal dinner she wore the Sirpesh on her breast. She was pleased to call me near her and say that, as I had presented my Nazar with my heart's esteem and affection, she had worn it in the same spirit. Indeed, our benign sovereign was most gracious to me, and, although a number of great chiefs from India were present there, she treated me with special favour. Whenever, whether at ball or dinner, I was present, she would talk to me with great attention and kindness."

The evening was to provide an unrehearsed entertainment. "An English official of Bombay, who by the grace of God was very huge in bulk, came to present a silver funnel pipe for keeping papers. The floor of the hall being very smooth his feet slipped, and he fell down in all his portly volume, while the dimensions of his belly made him get up with the greatest difficulty. Even the Queen could not preserve her gravity at the sight, while others were moved to open laughter. When the poor fellow went out for very shame, the laughter became so loud behind his back that the whole hall resounded, and Her Majesty thought fit to order the door to be closed. For four or five minutes all laughed to their hearts' content. At last the door was opened, and the object of all this merriment entered the hall again."

The Jubilee itself was beyond Sir Pratap's power of description. He merely states that all who saw it

will remember it for ever, and that, while the other Indian chiefs "were mounted in carriages," he rode a horse.

He remained in England for about four months more, during which he paid many visits to the country houses of his friends, among whom he mentions Lord Salisbury, Lord Rosebery, and Lord Rothschild.

English country life appealed to him very strongly. "Just as London boasts of being the foremost among the leading cities of the world, so the country houses of England, to which their owners resort in the summer days for rest and recreation, are also unique of their kind in the world. They are worth seeing. There one never feels fatigued, and always keeps fresh and vigorous. One hardly feels inclined to go to sleep there, for sleep follows fatigue, and not the remotest resemblance to fatigue is felt in these country houses. I always wished to be engaged in something or other involving labour. . . . In my opinion, it would be hardly improper to compare an English country house to heaven as a place for healthy and innocent enjoyment."

His comments on racing in England are very disappointing, after an opening which arouses one's expectations. "I must say something about England's racing also," he begins. "Racing is a very favourite sport in England; whenever there is a great race, hundreds of thousands of people flock to see it from great distances, and bettings are freely made upon the horses which are in the running."

During his sojourn in London he was in the habit of riding daily in the Park. Horses had been purchased for the little party, as Sir Pratap considered this to be less expensive for a stay of several months than hiring would have been; indeed, he deemed the charges for hiring extremely high.

Sir Pratap and the other Indians of the party afforded daily amusement to the London street



SIR PRATAP AND THAKUR HARI SINGH (HARJI) ABOUT 1880.

— about 1880, Jagur

Trifur, 56.

urchins, to whom their dress and turbans of varied colours proved most entertaining. Many were the names bestowed on them. "Mary Hamilton," "Buffalo Bill," "Fred Archer," were examples of these witticisms.

Sir Pratap and Thakur Hari Singh both entered for the Jubilee races held at Ranelagh, but the former proved to be over weight, and was debarred from taking part. Hari Singh was on a horse which had never jumped before, so, by Sir Pratap's advice, he hung back during the first part of the race, "in order that his mount might gain confidence from seeing the other horses jump." The apparent hopelessness of his chance, together with his unfamiliar costume, provoked much kindly merriment, which changed to hearty cheers when the Thakur steadily made his way to the front, and finally won hands down. He won six races in all, and was the hero of the day, to Sir Pratap's great delight.

Sir Pratap paid a visit to Aldershot, where a sham fight took place; as a spectacle it was spoilt by a strong wind and consequent dust. At the finish of the proceedings about 200 officers sat down to lunch in a dusty and dishevelled condition—only the Prince of Wales had been able to wash—which caused not a little merriment.

After five months in England Sir Pratap returned to India without halting anywhere. He met with a deservedly warm welcome; at Bombay Maharaj Kunwar Sardar Singh was there to greet him, and he was highly honoured by the Maharaja and Colonel Powlett travelling to Marwar Junction to meet him. His brother showed him the highest marks of affection and honour, and a shower of rain, regarded in such a dry country as a happy omen, fell at the moment of his arrival, giving an auspicious aspect to his welcome home.

Sir Pratap was fully conscious of the effect his visit

had produced on him, he felt that it had "expanded both head and heart," his outlook had widened, and the sight of the wonderful progress made in Europe had imbued him with the determination to aid Jodhpur also in ascending the ladder of advancement. His shrewd brain, with its readiness in assimilating progressive ideas, had stored up a mass of valuable material, which he planned to utilize in the future for the improvement of the state to which he was devoted.

CHAPTER IX

ROYAL VISITS TO JODHPUR

ON his return to Jodhpur, Sir Pratap resumed his task of reform. A court of Sardars had been formed in 1885 as a tentative measure, and its success now led to the institution of a State Council, composed of a number of the leading officials; a committee was also appointed to revise the existing laws of the state.

In 1888 the State Medical Department was initiated and the Hewson Hospital opened in the city. This with the passage of time has proved inadequate to the city's need, and is about to be superseded by a well-equipped and up-to-date hospital outside the city walls. Hospitals and dispensaries were opened in many of the mofussil districts, and their number was added to in course of time.

The services of Mr. Laurie, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ajmer-Merwara, were secured for a month to start a Forest Department; he reported that two stretches of jungle could easily be preserved, each over fifty miles long—one towards Ajmer, and one on the borders of Mewar (Udaipur). A tax was put on wood-cutting, and grazing rules were drawn up. A trial farm was opened at Sadri, and gardens were laid out close to Rai-ka-Bag Palace, at Balsamand, and other places, which formed welcome oases of restful green amid the sun-scorched sandy wastes. Maharaja Jaswant Singh was a great lover of gardens, and it is probable that the gardens owed their origin to this. Sir Pratap, on the other hand, in later years, was prone to sacrifice beauty to utility, and allowed

several most attractive gardens to go to rack and ruin, flowering shrubs made no appeal to him, and were replaced by mohwa trees and lucerne

In 1889 the *Marwar State Press*, which is now worked by the Gaol Superintendent, came into being, and the *Marwar Gazette*, hitherto a worthless rag, was published regularly as the official organ of the Darbar

Ever since Sir Pratap's return from the Kabul Mission it had been his cherished desire to create a body of regular state cavalry. We have previously seen what a motley and untrained rabble composed the state forces, there were horsemen and foot soldiers—they could not be dignified by the titles of cavalry and infantry—with officers who called themselves Colonels Majors, and so on, but training, discipline, and proper equipment were non-existent

Sir Pratap obtained the Maharaja's sanction to his appointment as an honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of cavalry, and began to form a regular body of horse with the fifty or sixty Rajput Sowars who were his retinue. He himself supervised their riding, and his private secretary, Mr Raghubans Narayan, taught them the British system of drill

Sir Pratap now invited Major Prinsep of the 11th Lancers, who had formerly treated him so kindly at Peshawar, to visit Jodhpur, he came, accompanied by Captain Beatson (afterwards Major-General Sir Stuart Beatson, some time Inspector-General of Imperial Service Troops), and both officers were greatly impressed by the smartness of Sir Pratap's little force, but expressed great surprise that such promising material did not come forward in greater numbers for military service

At this juncture news came from the Government of India that Jodhpur, along with other states, should raise a contingent of either cavalry or infantry for the Imperial service. This was completely in accord with

the wishes of the Maharaja and Sir Pratap; orders were passed at once that one corps of cavalry and one of infantry should be raised.

The former proved an easy task. Sir Pratap's little band formed the nucleus, the Maharaja gave 300 horses, and others were presented by the Commander-in-Chief, Maharaj Kishore Singh, and Bhopal Singh, his brother; the men were equally easy to come by, and in a very short time a force of 600 to 700 was available.

The infantry, however, was another matter altogether. The Rajput of Marwar has no leanings in that direction; give him a horse, or, failing that, a camel, good, but walking he has a hearty contempt for. Consequently no men were forthcoming for this branch of the service, and it was decided to raise a second body of cavalry instead.

This, again, was not difficult, and 1,200 Sowars in all were enlisted; their annual cost to the state was about six lakhs, and they were given the name of "Sardar Rissala" (Jodhpur Lancers), after Maharaj Kunwar Sardar Singh, heir-apparent, a name which they were to make famous, both in France and Palestine, where their dashing charges have earned for the regiment a glory that will not fade.

The services of Captain Beatson were obtained from the Government to supervise the training, but as he had at first to devote part of his time to Jaipur and Bharatpur as well, the Jodhpur Darbar soon applied for and obtained the exclusive use of his services.

For five years Captain Beatson remained in Jodhpur, where his devoted and whole-hearted work is still remembered with gratitude and admiration. As a soldier and as a great gentleman he is still spoken of in Jodhpur with affection and respect. Sir Pratap and he became the closest of friends, and Sir Stuart Beatson's death hit Sir Pratap very hard.

Early in 1889 Jodhpur was visited by Lord Reay,

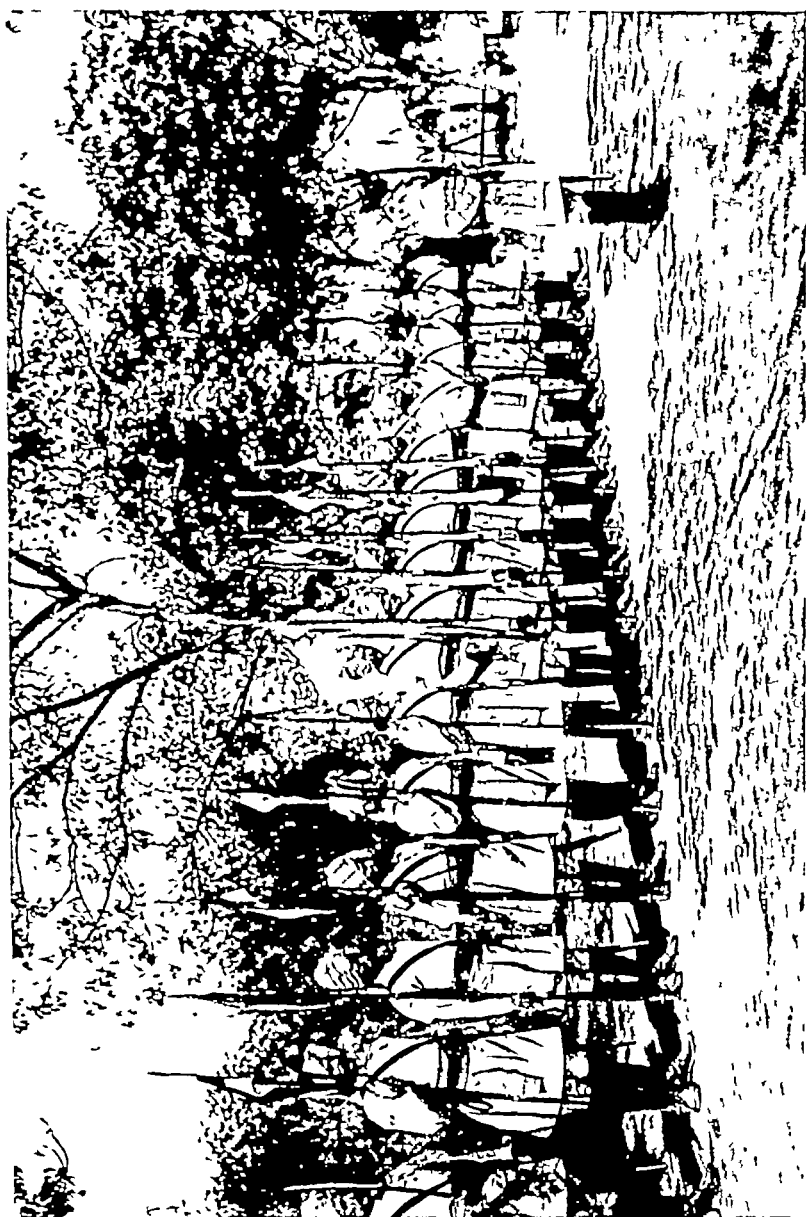
Governor of Bombay, who witnessed the march past of the Sardar Rissala. The Maharaja was too indisposed to attend the state banquet, and it fell to Sir Pratap to propose in his stead the health of the Queen-Empress, which he did in Marwari, deeming his English unequal to the task.

Two months later, on March 15, 1889, General Sir Frederick Roberts, Commander-in-Chief in India, visited Jodhpur for the first time. It is not surprising to learn that "special marks of honour" were shown to him.

The morning after his arrival was devoted to pig-sticking. General Roberts, Colonel Powlett, and Sir Pratap were riding a big boar, and Roberts speared, but the powerful brute, turning quickly, charged Colonel Powlett and caught his boot in its mouth before Roberts succeeded in dispatching it.

At the banquet that night Sir Pratap, at the Maharaja's bidding, proposed the health of the Queen-Empress, and also that of the Commander in Chief, to whom he paid a glowing tribute. His Excellency, in the course of his reply, spoke words both memorable and prophetic. "In the life of Colonel Skinner, which I have been reading again with increased interest since I came to Rajputana, we are told that, if we seek for a picture of chivalrous gallantry, unswerving fidelity, and fearless self-devotion, we have only to turn to the cavalry of the Rajpoot states, and particularly to that of the Rathores. We shall then find acts of resolute heroism that have not been surpassed by the troops of any age or country. It is the Izzat or Abroo of the Rajpoot which is dearer to him than life, and which makes him ready to sacrifice everything in defence of his chief and clan."

How aptly do these words describe Sir Pratap himself. Sir Frederick went on to say "I wish that time would admit of my recounting some of the many instances in which Rajpoots, when fighting against



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JODHPUR LANCERS, DISMOUNTED.

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vastly superior numbers, have cheerfully laid down their lives rather than dishonour themselves by giving up their arms or acknowledging themselves conquered. But were I to begin I should find it difficult to stop. Of one thing, however, I am sure, ladies and gentlemen, that what has been done before will be done again should occasion require it, and we may rest satisfied that no Rajpoot cavalry were more self-sacrificing or more loyal to their rulers than the body of Rathore horse, now being raised at Jodhpur, will be to the British Government. . . . And I can promise the princes, nobles, and well-born Rajpoots who take service in this cavalry that their high birth and the grand traditions of the Rajpoot race will be most carefully respected when the time comes for them to take their place in the field with the troops of the Queen-Empress of India!" Stirring words which were to be borne out in every detail on the fields of France and Palestine.

During his brief stay Sir Frederick Roberts inspected the state troops under the command of Sir Pratap, and praised the smart appearance of both men and horses.

Before departing he took part in another pig-stick, in which he stuck a boar in the belly; the animal turned and, getting underneath his horse, wounded it in the belly in its turn. Sir Pratap, who was close up, leapt from his horse and, mindful of his old wrestling trick, seized the boar by the hind-legs and held it until Sir Frederick had time to jump off too, pick up the spear which Sir Pratap had thrown away in order to use his hands, and dispatch the boar on foot.

With his habitual modesty Sir Pratap leaves not the slightest hint that his exploit was in any way out of the common.

Nearly a year after this memorable occasion Jodhpur was honoured for the first time by a visit

from one of the Royal Family of England—His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence, the eldest son of the Prince Albert Edward of Wales and brother of our present King

He arrived at Jodhpur, after stopping the special train for a sand-grouse shoot at Pali, in the afternoon of February 22, 1890, and was received with all the ceremony befitting the occasion

The Maharaja performed the Nicharawar ceremony, waving a bag of money round the Prince's head as he alighted from the train, a proceeding which is apt to take by surprise anyone not previously warned.

The Prince rode in a state carriage with the Maharaja, followed by an imposing procession, and escorted by the Sardar Rissala under the command of Sir Pratap. The latter's horse had been sent to meet him at the station and had been "dressed up with a crupper," to which it was not accustomed, and which caused it to give trouble all along the route to the Pota camp. On his arrival at the camp, the Prince asked the reason for this. Sir Pratap explained that the horse "had been dressed up with a crupper by the Dafadar on account of the speciality of the occasion" and that its restlessness had caused him to lose his K.C.S.I. medal on the way. His Highness very kindly told him not to let his loss trouble him, as he himself, on his return to England, would see that another was sent to Sir Pratap in its place.

When the Duke of Clarence came to India he was keen on sport, but not a good horseman, and the Jodhpur Darbar were asked to supply horses for his personal use during the tour, as this would insure their being reliable and well trained, and a fine bay horse was made pig-shy for him.

During his visit to Jodhpur he rode a beautiful roan mare, one day he was out with Sir Pratap, a watchful guardian, at his side. Sir Pratap was not satisfied with his manner of riding, and said promptly :

"Sir, you not riding like that, you riding like this. You riding like that you spoiling my mare."

The Prince was most grateful, and said: "Thank you so much, Sir Pratap; it is so good of you to tell me. People never will tell me things, always saying I do perfectly. If they would only tell me the truth, I should have a chance of learning." He certainly improved his riding under Sir Pratap's short period of supervision.

His Royal Highness took so kindly to pig-sticking that, at his desire, three days instead of one were given up to it; he earned the warm admiration of Sir Pratap by his pluck, as well as his eagerness to improve his horsemanship. On one occasion he got off his horse to join Sir Pratap, who had also dismounted, in trying to drive a boar out of a big bush, from which it refused to be dislodged; when Sir Pratap told him it was not safe, the Prince insisted on sharing the danger, and refused to remount until Sir Pratap had done so first. Another day he galloped at a boar, which at once charged; the impact of the Prince's spear was so great that it pierced the boar's skull, came out the other side, and laid the animal dead at his feet. It proved very difficult to extract the spear, and in doing so the spear-head was bent. Sir Pratap suggested that the Prince should take the boar's head and spear as mementos, but Sir Edward Bradford said that no presents were allowed to be offered to His Royal Highness.

"These cannot be called things given as presents, but if you are inclined to make so much of these trifles you are at liberty to pay me a price for them."

This made the others laugh, and Sir Pratap had his way; the head and spear were taken to London, where they remained, and possibly still remain, as mementos of the Prince's sport at Jodhpur.

A state banquet was held on February 24. The Maharaja "sat with a quiet and sedate look by the

side of the Prince," and, after he had proposed the toast of the Queen Empress, it fell to Sir Pratap to propose the health of the royal guest in a short speech, which Colonel Powlett then rendered in English as follows 'By command of His Highness the Maharaja, I beg to rise to propose the health of His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor, who has deigned to grace Jodhpur with a visit It is an auspicious occasion an event which will adorn the pages of our history, and which we must make the most of Words fail me to give adequate expression to the grateful emotions of my mind, and it is needless to say that we are all imbued with this feeling His Highness has commissioned me to express his unbounded joy, and to respectfully tender his thanks for this royal condescension

In former times Emperors visited our country either to usurp our lands or disgrace our honour, but now the royal visits are like angel visits, meant as favours to raise our position and dignity The Maharaja his family and his state shall always be found ready to sacrifice themselves in the service of Her Imperial Majesty the Queen Empress

Ladies and gentlemen permit me to ask you to join His Highness the Maharaja drinking the health of the illustrious guest

His Royal Highness returning thanks, spoke of the historic deeds of valour for which the Rathores were ever famous He went on to say "Nowhere during my tour have I been more heartily welcomed or splendidly entertained and nowhere have I enjoyed myself more thoroughly than during my visit here

I am aware how great a pleasure Sir Pratap Singh's visit to England as representing His Highness the Maharaja at the Jubilee festival, gave to Her Majesty the Queen Empress how popular he made himself while there and know how great will be Her Majesty's gratification to receive a letter from me,

actually from his home, containing a description of my reception here, and an account of the loyal expressions which have been used by him on behalf of Your Highness in proposing my health. I will only now ask you, ladies and gentlemen, to join me in drinking the health of His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur, and in wishing him and the state of Marwar every possible prosperity."

Some two years later the news of his untimely death came to Jodhpur. Sir Pratap was dreadfully upset; an officer, who happened to be with him, thinking to console him, remarked: "Well, the poor lad was terribly delicate, and it may be a better thing for the Empire to have a stronger man."

"Sahib, he was your Prince," and the Englishman stood reproved.

The same year brought the Viceroy, the Marquis of Lansdowne, as a visitor to Jodhpur, and a new departure was made by housing him at the bungalow of Thakur Hari Singh at Ratanada, instead of at Paota, where distinguished visitors had previously been lodged.

During this visit the Viceroy witnessed a parade of the Sardar Rissala, which was followed by some skilful riding by two of the squadrons, who jumped walls and open drains, rode up and down steps, crossed bridges, and rode through a narrow passage between high walls.

Before leaving the parade ground His Excellency addressed to the Maharaj Kunwar and Sir Pratap Singh a formal expression of his appreciation of the progress made by the Rissala in their training. "From the reports of Colonel Mellis and Major Beatson," said His Excellency, "it was already known to me that since the Rissala was placed under the training and supervision of the British Government it had shown extraordinary improvement. But having seen the troops with my own eyes, and watched their

soldierly bearing and movements, and their manner of riding, my satisfaction is complete "

In his speech at the state banquet the following night he paid a further tribute to the efficiency of the troops, and to the spirit which animated officers and men alike. The portion of his speech which dealt with this question is worth quoting

I trust that Your Highness will allow me to express my admiration for the magnificent body of troops which appeared under the command of Your Highness's brother, Sir Pratap Singh, upon parade yesterday morning

" The Sardar Rissala has, I understand, been for less than a year under special training, and the extraordinary smartness of the regiment is only to be explained by the fact that to both officers and men the service is a labour of love

' The Chief Inspecting Officer, Colonel Mellis, has reported to me that in no state has a greater spirit of enthusiasm been manifested than in this, a spirit which I believe exists in the breast of every one of Your Highness's Rajpoot subjects, from the Prime Minister downwards. I trust that the time may be far distant when the Government of India may find itself called upon to ask the Jodhpur state for the use of its troops but of this I feel sure that, should that time ever come the Sardar Rissala, and the distinguished officer who commands it, will claim a place which will give them an opportunity of showing that the chivalrous traditions of the Rathore family have not been forgotten in this state "

His Excellency was singularly happy in his phrasing for, nearly twenty five years later, the distinguished officer in question did " claim a place " in the fighting line for himself and the Rissala immediately the news reached him that war had been declared

In this speech His Excellency, by his exhaustive

review of the reforms recently effected in the state, showed that the Government of India was fully cognizant of all that had been done since the reins of administration had passed into the hands of Sir Pratap, and his final reference to "this prosperous and well-administered state" must have recompensed the able administrator for all the obstacles and difficulties which he had been called upon to face.

Two months after this, on January 3, 1891, His Imperial Highness the Czarevitch of Russia, afterwards the ill-fated Czar, arrived at Jodhpur in the course of his tour in India.

The royal visitor evidently made a far from favourable impression on Sir Pratap, who relates that "on the morning of the second day the party started for pig-sticking. The Czarevitch and his companion, Prince George of Greece, had beforehand expressed their wish to hunt with a spear; and accordingly, on reaching the hunting camp, they adjusted their stirrups, took spears in their hands, and mounted their several horses. But, strangely enough, they suddenly changed their intention and insisted on hunting with the gun. We were all puzzled to guess the reason of this, for in Jodhpur it is not considered a very great thing to kill a boar with the gun. And on this account none of the big officials on our side took part in the sport. The party came across a number of boars lying down near the hill, out of which they killed and brought with them about eight or ten.

"A curious difficulty was experienced on this occasion of the visit. Colonel Powlett had ordered that the horse provided for the Czarevitch should be a lean and mild one, and such as is not given to running fast. It was not easy to obtain such a horse, for in Jodhpur the taste is for fast and spirited horses. At last, after a good deal of search, a horse was brought which bore the significant name of 'Gentleman,' which was

used to going at a slow pace. It was examined twice or thrice in presence of Colonel Powlett for his complete satisfaction.

" In the evening there were games of tent-pegging, goat-cutting, and polo, but none of the officers of the Czarevitch joined in any of these sports. The Czarevitch himself did not appear to be much interested in them, and, while he was indifferent to the games and feats performed therein, he seemed to watch with great attention the tricks of jugglers and the dancing of monkeys

" A very curious thing happened on this occasion. A bottle of soda-water burst of itself, and on hearing the explosion the Czarevitch and his officers appeared to be very much disconcerted, and began looking round in all directions. All those who had come to see him could hardly repress their laughter at the exhibition of such excitement. But Colonel Powlett came forward, and addressing the spectators, said that, although it seemed strange to them, such fear was not unnatural in their distinguished guest and his companions, for anarchists followed him to all parts of the world and were always on the look-out for opportunities of killing him. This explanation satisfied all. Under instructions from the Government of India, which was exceedingly anxious about his safety, very careful watch was kept about the Czarevitch's person, and the Police Superintendent of Ajmere was specially deputed to look after him here. All the time he was in Jodhpur I also kept constantly about him in accordance with Colonel Powlett's instructions, and kept up all night seeing that the watch did their duty "

Fear was so entirely foreign to Sir Pratap's own nature that he was always inclined to be somewhat intolerant towards any exhibition of it in others less endowed with the Spartan spirit.

CHAPTER X

FIRST REGENCY

A LARGE area of Marwar was sadly lacking in water. The normal annual rainfall is only a beggarly 12 inches, and, as often as not, even that scanty amount was not forthcoming; and yet, with the characteristic conservatism of the East, little or no effort had been made to improve a state of affairs so unsatisfactory.

On the advice of Mr. Home, the state engineer, Sir Pratap set himself to bring about some amelioration, and in 1890 the Balsamand embankment and canal were completed at a cost verging on a lakh of rupees. A large tank, known as Jaswant Samand or Jaswant Sagar, was made at Bilara costing one and a quarter lakhs, and from it two canals were made on which nine lakhs were spent; with the aid of these a considerable area was now brought under cultivation.

From Kailana, where an embankment had recently been made, a canal was brought into the city, supplying the Gulab Sagar and Fateh Sagar tanks within the walls, and providing Jodhpur with an adequate supply of good water.

Smaller tanks were also made in several places, by which the people in many districts benefited greatly.

A source of satisfaction both to the Maharaja and Sir Pratap must have been the restoration to Marwar of the affairs of Mallani district. The administration of this district had been taken out of the hands of the state, owing to the misrule which had marked the reign of Maharaja Man Singh, predecessor of Takhat Singh; but now, owing to the confidence which the

Government of India felt in the present administrators, the civil administration was made over again to the state in 1891, to be followed seven years later by the transference of the criminal jurisdiction as well.

In the course of 1891 it is recorded that the professional criminals in Marwar numbered no less than 79,000 out of a total population of about 2½ millions. Sir Pratap set on foot schemes for settling them in peaceful and honest avocations, with very gratifying results. About 22,000, excluding women and children, found occupations in agricultural pursuits, and a further 6,000 took to coolie labour.

Thanks to the improvements which had taken place in the Police and Thagee Dacoity Department, the number of criminals brought to book was increasing annually, and the old gaol, which was located in a temple, proved quite inadequate, moreover, its rooms were small, dark and ill ventilated, for which reasons the State Medical Officer constantly urged the provision of proper quarters for prisoners. In consequence, a roomy and airy gaol was constructed at a cost of a lakh, a large vegetable garden was attached to it, which provided healthy employment for a number of the prisoners, others worked in the State Press while others again were taught various crafts or practised such as they were already familiar with.

Owing to the successful results shown by the Darbar High School of Jodhpur in the University examinations, college classes were opened in 1893, and in 1896 the Jaswant College as it was called, was providing instruction up to the B.A. standard. Schools were started at important centres in other parts of the state, and were placed under the supervision of the Principal of the college. In Jodhpur itself a Sanskrit Pathshala was opened with a Hindi branch attached to it, a telegraph class was started, and training for magisterial and police work was given. With a view to encouraging the spread of education and with

the best intentions the state gave a large number of so-called scholarships to attract students, but sufficient discrimination in the awards was not shown, resulting eventually in these charitable gifts, for they were nothing else, being too often held by people who did not need them, by the undeserving, and not infrequently by those who had long ceased to prosecute any form of study. Another evil arising from the same cause was the encouragement of the idea, already all too prevalent in an Indian state, that the state, the kindly parent, should be looked to for assistance at every turn; and the idea of the actual parents making any sacrifice to educate their sons was utterly abhorrent to nearly all the good folk of Jodhpur, who vastly preferred it if, by hook or by crook, the state could be prevailed on to provide free education and reward the children for being good enough to patronize it. Happily now the old order is changing; slowly but surely enlightenment is spreading, and a sense of the responsibility of the individual is developing.

The year 1893 saw the Jodhpur polo team as the acknowledged champions of India, with one of the finest teams ever seen there. It consisted of T. Dhokal Singh (1), Major Beatson (2), Sir Pratap (3), T. Hari Singh (Harji) (back).

Sir Pratap and Major Beatson had started polo in Jodhpur in 1889, and in four years' time had got together a team, some of whose achievements are worthy of passing mention.

The four leading teams in 1893 were the 7th Hussars, Jodhpur, Central India, and Patiala. The 7th Hussars met Patiala at Ambala and beat them; Jodhpur defeated Central India (Captain Colin Campbell 1, Ibrahim Khan 2, Major Mayne 3, Major Cotgrave back) at Nasirabad in the final of the Rajputana Challenge Cup, and followed this up by a victory of eight goals to love over the 7th Hussars at Poona in the final of the Challenge Cup Tourna-

ment A Jodhpur team was beaten by Patiala on one occasion, but the two sides never met at full strength

When the King was presenting the cups to the winners of the Calcutta Tournament in January, 1912, he happened to see Sir Pratap, General Beatson, and Dhokal Singh standing close by, and called attention to them as the three surviving members of an unbeaten side

The team, with Major Turner in place of Major Beatson, accompanied Sir Pratap to England for the Diamond Jubilee of 1897, the first Indian team to challenge British players on their own soil They won a number of matches at Hurlingham and Ranelagh, before Sir Pratap in a game at Ranelagh fractured his leg, thus preventing the team from playing in the Champion Cup This cup was won by the Rugby team (E D Miller, J Miller, C Miller, Major Renton), who defeated the Freebooters (Rawlinson, Buckmaster, Dryborough, Watson)

The Rugby side had been all-conquering for two or three years, but a few days later suffered its first defeat at Ranelagh from the same Freebooters team with Dhokal Singh at back instead of Watson, the Freebooters won in hollow fashion by 10 to 0, Dhokal Singh being responsible for no less than seven of the goals

The later years of Sir Pratap's polo activities in Jodhpur, when his match playing days were over, were spent in building up a young side which might grow to be worthy of its forerunner, he had his reward when, in February, 1922, at Delhi, in the presence of the Prince of Wales, he watched Jodhpur beat Patiala in the final of the Prince of Wales's Tournament after a brilliant and thrilling struggle

Sir Pratap sat absolutely motionless throughout the game, and never spoke a word It was only when the bugle sounded the end and he took off his pig-

sticking helmet that one saw the beads of perspiration standing out on his forehead, and realized how anxious and excited he had been.

In 1894 Sir Pratap's secretary, Munshi Hardayal Singh, died, and he appointed in his stead his nephew, Maharaj Kunwar Sardar Singh, to whom he entrusted all business with the Resident, as Maharaja Takhat Singh had formerly done in the case of Sir Pratap himself.

Sardar Singh was the only surviving son of Maharaja Jaswant Singh; born prematurely, he was always delicate, and owed his survival in a large measure to the intense care of Sir Pratap, who was absolutely devoted to him. Before Sardar Singh's birth the Maharaja had lost many children, so, to break the spell and avert the evil eye, the expected child was sold to Sir Pratap for a pound of salt!

Sir Pratap was, of course, always deeply interested in any scheme for improving the breed of horses in the state, and in 1894 a cattle fair was started at Jodhpur with a view to promote improvement in the breed of horses and cattle, as well as to give an impetus to trade. Everything was done to induce people to patronize the fair; arrangements for polo and pig-sticking were made, invitations scattered broadcast, and many of the princes of Rajputana put in an appearance. The fair, which was to take place annually, was called the "Trevor Fair," to "perpetuate the memory of a retiring exalted officer who governed the destinies of Rajputana peaceably, liberally, and equitably, and acquired matchless popularity by his considerate regard for the rights of loyal Rajputs."

Colonel Trevor, in returning thanks, expressed regret at the absence, owing to an accident, of Sir Pratap, "who," he said, "has been identified with all the arrangements of this fair—I may say, with all the progress made in the state during the last seventeen

years " He also alluded to the fame of " Sir Pratap's wonderful polo team "

The entries were highly satisfactory, comprising as they did 676 horses, 1,187 camels, 8,219 cattle, 14 buffaloes, 52 sheep and goats, and 1 elephant.

The fair, which should have proved very useful, only lasted a few years, and was discontinued during Sir Pratap's absence in Idar All that remains to mark the site is an abandoned race-course, and what appears to be a barren, deserted grave-yard, for such is the appearance presented by hundreds of red sand-stone tethering stones

Lord Harris, at that time Governor of Bombay, came to visit Jodhpur in November, 1894, with him was Lord Henry Scott, who was touring in India Out pig sticking one morning, " this nobleman happened once to bend himself more than the usual degree in trying to spear a boar, and in doing so fell down from his horse, he received nasty gashes from the boar in his arm and thigh, and only the prompt intervention of a Sardar saved him from more serious injury "

In April, 1894, Sir Frederick (afterwards Lord) Roberts paid his second visit to Jodhpur on the eve of his departure from India, Jodhpur was *en fete* to welcome him, and the Bikaner camel corps took part with the Sardar Rissala in the manoeuvres held for his inspection

In his speech at the state banquet he gave very warm praise to the troops, not only in Jodhpur, but in other states too, to their inspecting officers, and to the chiefs whose personal interest and support had rendered the reorganization possible

The following morning ' the party went out for pig sticking towards Khema-ka-kua (Khema's Well) Three batches were formed which started in different directions In one of these batches were General Roberts, General White, and myself," writes Sir Pratap " General Roberts and I threw our horses

after a boar, and General Roberts aimed a blow at it with his spear, but the beast warded it off by its head and turned in another direction. As the General's horse had proceeded onward, I thought of driving the boar back to the direction in which it was originally running, so that His Excellency might have a chance of spearing it a second time. My attention was directed towards the boar, when a bush fell before me and my horse jumped clear over it, but there was a ditch on the other side, into which both of us (horse and man) fell. As soon as the ditch had come in my view I threw away my spear. The horse rose up and ran away, but the boar, seeing me on the ground, came up and fell upon me and drove its tusks into my left thigh. I, on my part, caught hold of its head with my right hand and, pulling by the ear with my left, turned it round; then quickly holding the animal by the hind-legs, I threw it down flat on the ground. I then sat upon its belly and finished it with my jambia, which on such occasions I always carried inside my long boots. By this time the Commander-in-Chief arrived on the spot, and expressed the hope that I had received no injury. As the wound was still hot, I did not feel any pain at the time, and so said that I had not been hurt; but he saw the blood running out of my thigh and pointed it out to me, when I realized that the boar had penetrated its tusks there. The Commander-in-Chief offered me his horse, but I declined it and did not take it, even though he insisted on my doing so. He then ran to where the carriage of Lady Roberts was standing and had it brought near me. I proceeded half the way on foot, but finally got upon the carriage. The wound was not a very bad one, and so healed up in a short time. I had before this received wounds several times in wrestling with boars, but it was a good thing General Roberts had a chance of seeing the fun, for I regard it only as fun."

The hardy sport of his childhood had served him well

Tent pegging and goat-cutting took place the same evening, and Sir Pratap, crippled though he was, insisted on being present on a couch, as Lord Roberts recalls in *Forty-One Years in India*

The year 1895 was a sad one for Sir Pratap in particular, and for Marwar in general "The 11th of October was a dark day for Jodhpur, for on that day the sun of Marwar went down" Maharaja Jaswant Singh was taken ill on the 3rd, and succumbed eight days later

The cremation and funeral rites were performed by Sir Pratap, for the eldest son who ascends the gaddi cannot take any part in the ceremony, and Jaswant Singh left only one son, consequently, on Sir Pratap devolved the duty of setting fire with his own hands to the body of the brother to whom he had been so closely attached Jaswant Singh's death was a terrible shock to his brother, for he had been almost a father to Pratap Singh, and often used to say "Pratap Singh is my son and Sardar Singh is Pratap Singh's boy" The bond of affection between the two had stood every test Again and again the enemies of Sir Pratap had tried, at moments they considered favourable, to instil into the mind of the Maharaja jealousy of his brother's power in the state, and to discredit him in any way they could devise, but the heart of Jaswant Singh was true, and their designs failed

He left behind him a vastly different Marwar from the disorganized state he had begun to rule over twenty two years before, he was an excellent judge of men, and had the virtue of trusting implicitly where he trusted at all It was his possession of these two qualities which had enabled Sir Pratap to carry out the reforms which made Jaswant Singh's reign notable He possessed, in addition, a personal charm and a

genuine love for his people; rich and poor, old and young, were all given access to him, and he was in very truth to all his subjects "Ma bap" (mother and father). At the time of his death Maharaja Sardar Singh was only eighteen years of age, so Sir Pratap was appointed by the Government of India as Regent, with a council to assist him, until the young prince attained his majority.

In carrying out his reforms in the administration Sir Pratap had made a large number of enemies, as was only to be expected. Strong in his likings, he was equally so in his antipathies; having decided on the course he considered right, he pursued it sternly and, on occasion, ruthlessly, leaving behind many who stored up in their hearts grievances, imaginary or real.

The time had come when his foes combined to harass him at every turn. Deprived of the firm support which he had always received from his brother, he had now to depend entirely on himself.

Not only was every opportunity taken to discredit him in the eyes of the young Maharaja and the Government officials, but obstacles were put in his way at every turn of the administration, where many of his supporters even had turned against him.

The sycophants and parasites, with which every Indian state is teeming, emerged from their lairs to fawn on the young prince and, by pandering to the weaknesses of a youth, to lead him unresisting into their clutches, until the influence which Sir Pratap had over him was entirely destroyed.

This period of regency brought with it little change in the affairs of the state, and for most of the latter half Sir Pratap was absent, first as a representative of India at the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in London of Queen Victoria, and then as a member of the staff on the Mohmand and Tirah Campaigns. The only notable innovations during the three years were the reorganization of the Registration Department,

the opening of the Jaswant Zenana Hospital for pardah women, and the opening of a school for poor Rajput boys by the Viceroy, Lord Elgin, in 1896

Lord Elgin arrived at Jodhpur on November 24, and the Zenana Hospital was opened by Lady Elgin the same afternoon. The next morning the Elgin Rajput School was opened by the Viceroy.

The school owed its origin to Sir Pratap, who lost no opportunity of encouraging a desire for education among Rajputs, so that they might fit themselves for high official posts in their own states, instead of having to enlist the help of outsiders.

The instruction was to be given in Marwari in the earlier stages, after which English and Sanskrit were to be added, to the usual subjects were added surveying, police training, agriculture, and the civil, criminal, and revenue codes of Marwar.

The endowment fund was to be raised by subscription from Rajputs, headed by the Maharaja himself with a generous gift of Rs. 10,000, a grant-in-aid of Rs. 20,000 was given by the Darbar.

The capital so raised was to be invested in loans to Rajput landowners at rates of interest more favourable than they could otherwise obtain, the accounts of the endowment fund were to be kept by the state treasury, and would be open to inspection by a committee of Rajput gentlemen.

The scheme had been carefully thought out by Sir Pratap, but during his sojourn in Idar the school failed to live up to his ideals, the endowment fund melted away, and it was not until his return to Jodhpur in 1911 that the school lifted its head again.

In 1897 Sir Pratap visited England again to represent Jodhpur at the Diamond Jubilee, before leaving he made all arrangements for celebrating the occasion in his state in a befitting manner. The Victoria Water-Works, which had cost about four lakhs, were opened, 7,000 labourers were given two days' holiday

with their wages paid, 121 prisoners were released from gaol, and 79 others had their sentences reduced.

Sir Pratap was again accompanied by Thakurs Hari Singh and Dhokal Singh, with Major Turner representing the Government. This time they went by sea, via Malta and Gibraltar. Sir Pratap, accustomed to the vast and arid plains of Marwar, was immensely struck with the "small island of Malta, surrounded by water for miles round," and at first he wondered how men could spend their lives in so confined a space.

He describes this visit less fully than those before: "Reaching London, we put up at the Alexandra Hotel this time also, and the arrangements there were as before. Leading men of England treated me with kindness and attention even greater than on the previous occasion. Indeed, in every respect I found things twice as pleasant for myself as before. As a rule, I had to take my lunch and dinner out, for so many invitations came that some one or other had to be accepted. Of course, I took it to be my special duty to attend any invitation that came from the Royal Family. Not being accustomed to three meals a day, I did not take any regular breakfast. Taking only some little light food early in the morning, I used to have lunch and dinner as my chief meals. I had to attend levees on several occasions; indeed, in one single night I had to be present at eleven levees. The English are a very social people. They take special thought of one who keeps friendly terms and intimacy with them. When one becomes popular, as they call it in London, the biggest men in England take special pains to invite him and have him one of the party at their levee or dinner. This kind of feeling is very strong all over Europe, but particularly so in England.

"A week before the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee I took part in a game of polo, in which my right ankle-joint received a severe wound on account

of my horse falling on my leg By chance I received orders the same day that, as an Aide-de-Camp to the Prince of Wales, I was to attend on His Royal Highness for three days in full dress I asked the doctor for permission to do so, but he objected emphatically Thereupon I applied sticking plaster over the wound bandaged the part strongly, and, putting on Dhokal Singh's big boots, I went through my duties without even once taking off my boots or trousers On the third day I received invitation from the Prince to be his guest for three days at Sandringham I presented myself as desired, and when His Royal Highness came to know that my leg was wounded, he had a second chair placed for my leg at dinner-time Wonderful indeed is the difference between those days, when in the presence of the Emperor of Hindustan even the biggest men were not allowed a seat, and the present benign régime, when the sovereign, not of India alone, but of England as well, provides at his own instance a chair for the wounded leg of a humble person like myself Under such circumstances, why should not his affability and kindness of treatment conquer the hearts of Indians ?

" The celebrations on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee were even more magnificent than those of the 1887 Jubilee The procession, meetings, entertainments, parades, and reviews were like those at the former ceremony On this occasion I was honoured with the title of G.C.S.I., Her Benign Majesty being gracious enough to put the badge upon my breast with her own hands The Cambridge University also conferred on me the degree of honorary LL.D Diamond Jubilee bars were distributed to all the guests by the Queen herself at her palace in Windsor, where we were all called for the purpose After staying nearly three months in England, I returned to Jodhpur "

CHAPTER XI

MOHMAND, TIRAH, AND CHINA CAMPAIGNS

SCARCELY had Sir Pratap reached Jodhpur on his return from England than rumours of war filled the air; for some time past certain of the turbulent and lawless Pathan tribes had been giving trouble on the North-West Frontier, and it became necessary to dispatch a punitive expedition.

Sir Pratap had for long been thirsting to draw his sword for his Queen and Empire. It will be recalled that, on his return from the Kabul Mission of 1878, he had volunteered for the Afghan Campaign, but had been told that duty called him back to Jodhpur, where he was Chief Minister.

Again, in 1892, he offered his services for the Black Mountain Expedition, but was again refused. On this occasion his pride was deeply wounded, because Thakurs Hari Singh and Dhokal Singh were sent with some of the Sardar Rissala to train with the 11th Lancers and to take part in the expedition. Sir Pratap wrote to General Roberts, the Commander-in-Chief, that, if in time of war his services were not accepted, and he was not allowed to take part in actual fighting, his title of Lieutenant-Colonel of the British Army was merely a nominal one, and it were better if the distinction were taken away, and that he be allowed to resign his command of the Jodhpur Lancers.

General Roberts, in reply, urged patience, and said it was not, in his opinion, desirable for Sir Pratap to take part in such petty affairs, but, should a suitable

opportunity arise, he would not be forgotten. Even this only gave partial balm to the smart, consequently, as soon as news reached him of the projected Mohmand Campaign, he lost no time in pressing his claims, which were this time accepted.

Within nine hours of receiving orders he was in a special tram *en route* for Peshawar. A week later the entire Jodhpur Rissala received orders to take the field and, being ready in anticipation of the summons, had started within three hours for Ferozepur, whence they proceeded to Rawal Pindi to join the Tirah Reserve Brigade.

At Peshawar Sir Pratap was ordered to join the Mohmand Expedition on the personal staff of General Elles, to whom Thakurs Hari Singh, Dhokal Singh, and thirty-two Sowars were appointed as escort. It must be borne in mind that the operations were carried on in a country totally foreign in nature to Sir Pratap, the bare, rugged, stony hills, intersected with deep ravines were every whit as inhospitable as the sandy plains of Marwar, but vastly more difficult to negotiate, and the Pathan's mode of fighting differed entirely from that of the Rajput on his native wastes.

None the less, Sir Pratap, soldier to the finger tips, adapted himself to his novel surroundings as to the manner born.

The nightly sniping merely reminded him of fireworks, and he found sleep hard to come by without its soothing lullaby!

He arrived two days after the battle of Shabkadar, which practically ended the fighting, and the force was back in Peshawar in a fortnight with its purpose achieved.

Sir Pratap fresh from England, where his "stomach had become delicate because of the nice fares provided at the dinners given by members of the Royal Family and the great lords of England," found the hard fare of camp life a rude change, and was attacked with

dysentery; for a week he had to go on milk diet, and milk was difficult to obtain, until Colonel Beatson engaged a Pathan orderly to procure milk from the villages near by.

His quick eye noted on the march a British regiment which was marching in new boots, with painful results, and he comments on it very truly as a matter apparently trifling, but really of great importance.

On his return to Peshawar he succeeded in getting appointed A.D.C. to General Lockhart, who was placed in command of the Tirah Expedition.

From Peshawar he marched with General Westmacott to join General Lockhart. On the way, upon the Changrakotal Hill near Shanwari, the enemy was seen. Sir Pratap briefly describes the fight: "They had the advantage over us, first of being upon the hill while we were in the valley beneath; and, secondly, they were inhabitants of the place and familiar with every inch of the ground. For the Government's troops the country was altogether new. . . . From morning to noon a cannonade was kept up, and exactly at noon order was given for making a charge.

"In this a Gurkha Regiment was in the forefront. They made a very good charge and, after advancing about 200 yards, laid themselves down. They were followed by the Dorsetshire Regiment, who also made a charge and laid themselves down, after advancing a little beyond the Gurkhas. The last charge was that of the Highlanders, who, advancing beyond the others, mounted up the hill. But the Afridis had run away before their arrival. The Gurkha and Dorset Regiments suffered considerable loss, for showers of shots fell on them direct from the front. The sight was a bewildering one. Several gave up their lives before my eyes. It was a pity that I was not one of the privates in the fight. All night and day we had to pass there sitting. Nobody could get anything to eat, nor was there any chance for lying down. The poor

Highlanders spent the whole night on the hill without anything for covering themselves. In fact, as a result of fighting under the hot sun of midday, as well as from the extreme cold of night, several of them got attacks of fever."

General Lockhart and his staff were frequently under fire on the march, and several casualties were sustained among them.

On one occasion 'a shower of shots fell on his flag. We decided among ourselves to request him that the flag might be lowered for a while, as the Afridis looked out for it in order to aim their shots. Accordingly I approached him and urged him to this effect. But his reply was, No Pratap Singh, this flag is the thing by carrying which I am your chief officer, otherwise, as a matter of fact, we are all equal. Our duty is to kill or be killed under this flag.' I reported this answer to the rest of the officers. At last it was planned by consultation amongst us all to put in our horses between the General and the flag, that a sufficient distance might be created between the two. And so ten or twelve horses were put in."

Another time "it happened that we were marching along the bank of a small stream, and to our left there were Pathans concealed upon a hill. They began shooting as we passed by them, and five of our men were wounded. The native assistant of Sir Richard Udney, Political Agent, who was a very fat man with a big paunch, was struck in the belly with a shot, which came out, after passing through a portion of the protruding skin and fat, without penetrating into the bowels. There were, of course, two holes made where the bullet went in and came out, but the injury was not of a serious nature. However, when his kamarband was being removed, he felt very much perturbed lest his breath should depart as soon as the cloth had been taken away. But when it had been actually removed, he felt comforted.

“ In this situation General Lockhart ordered all of us to cover ourselves behind a raised portion of the river bank, and, agreeable to the order, General Nicholson conducted us to the retreat pointed out. But Hari Singh did not move from the side of General Lockhart, as the General had called for his horse that he might ride in advance; but, before he had mounted, his syce let go his hold upon the animal through fear, and it ran away. Hari Singh caught it, and the General then mounting it rode off. Hari Singh then came to me and asked me, laughing, ‘ Bapji, why did you run away ?’ I replied that I had not run away, but it was necessary to obey orders. He rejoined that was not the time to obey orders; the occasion was quite of a different kind. I admitted that it was indeed an occasion of a special kind. Hari Singh was a very brave man. It was always a pleasure to him to throw himself into dangerous situations. Ordinarily, too, he was absolutely fearless and defiant. I am very sorry to record that he is not now in this world.”

Sir Pratap greatly admired the fighting spirit of the Highlanders, notably when they, forming part of the rear-guard, got into an open plain, which they found to be surrounded on all sides by the enemy concealed in the hills. “ But,” he observes, “ the Highlanders are a strangely brave people. Forming a circle, they placed the followers and servants in the centre, and commenced meeting the enemy on all sides. There was a fierce fight, in which the Major of the Highlanders lost his life. One Lieutenant and twelve to fifteen privates were killed, while several were wounded, but in the end they won the battle.”

On arriving at Maidan, he received orders from the Viceroy to return to Jodhpur for the ceremony of conferring powers on the young Maharaja, Sardar Singh. It was not at all to his mind to leave the campaign before it was finished, and he urged General

Lockhart to arrange for him to remain in the field. The General accordingly wrote to say that Sir Pratap could not be spared at the time, thereby earning his lasting gratitude.

Sir Pratap was not to come through the campaign unscathed, and the account of his wound is characteristic of the man.

"With a view to proceed beyond Maidan, General Lockhart got together a select body of troops with provisions for eight days, and the day following we marched forward. The people of the part of the country showed us very friendly behaviour, and so at night the usual trenches were not dug, and we encamped in an open place. The General's tent was placed in the centre, while on the left were those of the Europeans of the staff and the mess-court, and on the right was the Sikh escort, near which was my small tent. All through the day the Afridis kept perfect peace and even mixed with us. In the evening, too, no cause for suspicion appeared but at twelve o'clock at night shots began to fly, out of which the very first or second one struck me in the right hand. Following that, twenty-five or thirty more shots came flying, and it was strange that, although the night was very dark, all the shots either came upon the General's tent or fell near it. It seems to me that at daytime someone had attached a gun to one of the trees with its aim fixed at the General's tent, and when night came all the fellows fired their guns holding them alongside it. The wound which I received in my hand was a simple one, and early in the morning I washed off the blood and bandaged the part myself, Hari Singh tying the knot. I specially desired him not to mention the matter to anybody. As usual I rode my horse, but while doing so I covered my right hand with the left, not wishing that anybody's eye should fall upon it, and that I should be subjected to explanations. I had hoped that no one would come to know anything

about it, but on the next day Lieutenant Westmacott, who was General Lockhart's nephew and a great friend of mine, tried to shake hands with me on meeting me, upon which Hari Singh involuntarily exclaimed: 'Take care, his hand is wounded.' From this the Lieutenant came to know that I had received a shot in my hand, and he informed General Lockhart accordingly. I was very much annoyed with Hari Singh, but the word had come out of his mouth by chance."

The Queen had been notified, of course, that Sir Pratap was taking part in the expedition, and Lord Elgin, in a letter to her from Viceregal Lodge, Simla, on October 13, 1897, says:

"... The Viceroy will take care to carry out Your Majesty's instructions in regard to the princes and chiefs who have contributed troops or personal service. Of the latter, Sir Pratap Singh is still at the front, as also the Maharaja of Kuch-Behar; and the Maharana of Dholpur has just gone. . . ."

On hearing of Sir Pratap's wound, Her Majesty showed her solicitude by inquiring promptly how he was getting on. General Lockhart sent the following reply:

"FRONTIER MARNANI,

"December 14, 1897.

"Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh is deeply grateful for Her Majesty's gracious inquiries; his wound was slight, and he has now recovered, but he had a very narrow escape. The other wounded are doing well, but I regret to say their number has been largely increased during the past few days.

"GENERAL SIR W. LOCKHART."

For a month more the General's force scoured the country, and taught the rebellious tribes a lesson so salutary that they were glad to accept the terms imposed on them by the Government of India and lay down their arms.

General Lockhart, in his dispatch regarding the operations of the Tirah Expeditionary Force from November 1, 1897, to January 26, 1898, writes :

" I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to Lieutenant-Colonel His Highness the Maharaj Dhuraj Sir Pratap Singh, G.C.S.I., who was attached to me throughout the expedition as extra Aide-de-Camp. This very gallant Rajput nobleman was wounded on November 29, and characteristically concealed the fact until I discovered it by accident some days after the occurrence "

The Sardar Rissala had little opportunity for earning distinction and no real fighting. One field troop took part in the Mohmand Expedition, a second was placed on convoy duty between Bara and Landi Kotal, and a third was ordered to Peshawar, the rest of the regiment was with the Reserve Brigade at Rawal Pindi.

They succeeded, however, in creating a favourable impression, and Sir Pratap must have been gratified at the Brigadier-General's opinion. " I consider the Jodhpur Rissala to be a first-class regiment, its arrangements were excellent, and every one of the men gave proof of smartness as a soldier. I believe that the days they spent out of their own country provided them an excellent opportunity for training "

Sir Pratap regretted that the expedition had given him no chance to perform any deed worth mentioning, but the Government of India placed a higher value on his services, creating him a Companion of the Order of the Bath, and promoting him to the rank of full Colonel.

When conferring the honour on him at Agra, Lord Curzon spoke of Sir Pratap as " a brave Rajput Riss and fearless soldier, a lover of sport, a first-class gentleman, and one staunchly loyal to the British Government, whose good example ought to be followed by the youthful princes and Risses in India "

Sir Pratap returned to Jodhpur in time for the investiture of Maharaja Sardar Singh with full powers as a ruling prince. This was performed by Sir Robert Crosthwaite, Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, at a Darbar. He was received by Sir Pratap and conducted to the two thrones, in one of which he seated himself, while the other was occupied by the Maharaja; the officials and guests were seated on either side facing each other across the room. The Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana presented the Maharaja with the kharita (letter) from the Viceroy, put the Sirpesh (circlet of jewels) round his head, the necklace round his neck, and handed him his sword, signifying in this way that the investiture was complete.

During the course of his speech at the state banquet that night Sir Robert Crosthwaite drew a striking contrast between the state of affairs in Marwar then and that which had obtained when Maharaja Jaswant Singh had ascended the throne. Referring to the young Maharaja, he said: "Fortunately for him his uncle, Maharaj Dhiraj Sir Pratap Singh, and the council have ably managed the affairs; everything is in admirable order, and the Maharaja has an excellent and broken team to drive, and has only to sit tight on the coach box and drive straight.

"It was very different when His Highness's father succeeded to power, when the state was disorganized, life and property were insecure, the finances were in a bad condition, and debts had accumulated. But so ably was the administration conducted that law and order were restored, large sums expended on railway construction and irrigation works, the revenue nearly doubled, and the whole of the state placed in a prosperous condition.

"Besides this, I must not forget to mention the establishment of the two splendid regiments of Imperial Service Cavalry, which are, as you all know,

an honour to Jodhpur and the Empire. The last advice that I think I can give to His Highness is to follow the example of his father, Sir Jaswant Singh, and his uncle, Sir Pratap Singh, and to add one more great name to the list of the chiefs of Marwar."

Sir Pratap seems to have resented the Maharaja leaving his residence and setting up an establishment of his own, it was, in fact, a most natural step to take, all the more because Sir Pratap's training, though dictated by real affection, was of the strictest, and likely frequently to prove extremely galling to a young man just attaining his manhood.

In any case, now that the Maharaja had received his powers, it is unlikely that Sir Pratap would have been able to influence him to any great extent. The pity was that he allowed himself to be surrounded by men of the wrong type, desirous only of gain and self-advancement, blind to the true interests of their chief and state. Before long it was deemed advisable to remove him from such influences for evil, and he was for some time with the Imperial Cadet Corps at Dehra Dun and afterwards in Europe.

Sir Pratap was not long permitted to eat the bread of idleness, in 1900 it was decided that Indian troops should participate in the China Campaign, and it was proposed that one regiment of the Jodhpur Rissala should form part of the force.

Sir Pratap, longing for the chance of seeing another battle-field, easily obtained the Maharaja's assent to the Government's proposal.

The regiment, owing to scarcity of fodder in Jodhpur caused by the famine of the previous year, and also to relieve the 9th Lancers, ordered to South Africa, was at Muttra, whence they proceeded direct to Calcutta, where they picked up their equipment, sent by special train from Jodhpur.

At Calcutta they received orders to embark for

Wei-hai-Wei, accompanied by two British officers, Major Turner and Captain Hughes; General Beatson came to wish godspeed to his old friend, and to the regiment which was largely their joint creation.

Sir Pratap went on ahead in the s.s. *Mohawk*, whose captain he characterizes as "a very good man," largely, it would appear, because he gave permission for Sir Pratap to walk his horse on the deck morning and evening.

He embarked wearing a Cawnpore Tent Club hat, in the front of which was to be seen the miniature of Queen Victoria, given to him by Her Majesty herself. He told Major, now Major-General Sir Harry, Watson, that it was a Rajput superstition, when going into battle, to wear something belonging to mother or wife, and that he was wearing something given to him by his mother!

Sir Pratap describes Shanghai, whither they proceeded from Wei-hai-Wei, as "the meeting-place of men of all nations and a beautiful city. Race-course, polo-grounds, hotels, etc., are all to be found. After a month," he goes on to say, "we had again to proceed to Wei-hai-Wei, but immediately on reaching there we were ordered to Shan-hai-Kwan, at the end of the Great Wall of China.

"Arrived at the last-mentioned place, we put up our tents near a river. Here General Reid was quartered in a neighbouring fort, and used to come to us frequently and treated us very kindly.

"I was in constant fear lest some mine should have been laid underneath our camp, for the Chinese had at several places sunk gunpowder under the ground. After a short time we were given an old broken-down fort, where on both sides of us were the Cossack regiments of the Russians. The Cossacks have the reputation of being very good riders. Their Mongolian ponies are very sturdy animals, possessed of long breath, and their trotting is admirable.

"The forces of different nations were present in the camp here Russia, Japan, Germany, America, France, and other powers each had their contingents. By-and-by we became acquainted with all, and the officers of the different contingents invited one another to lunch, and spent their time in joking and jollity. With the Russians it was a standing joke of ours that, when they would come to our frontier, we would give them a jolly good greeting, and shake hands by making a charge upon them.

"In order to prevent our horses from getting lazy and out of gear, we had a small race-course prepared, and kept them in practice. Sometimes we used to have the sport of tent pegging, which the German and Japanese officers generally came to see, and tried to learn from us. Between the Russian officers and ourselves also there was very good understanding. Although they often found grounds of complaint against our Government, yet with us personally they kept terms of friendship. These Russian officers are very fond of ease and comfort, in particular, they are given to indulging to excess in drinking. Several times they invited us to their feasts, where cup followed cup without intermission, and everyone was compelled to drink.

"On one occasion a Russian railway officer gave us all a party. Not only did he drink and drink himself until he was almost mad, but he spared no effort to make his guests also senseless. At last, when it had grown very late, I told Major Turner that it was time we left, and rose up with this intention. But a Russian officer stood across the door with his arms extended, and said that he would on no account let us go. By signs I indicated to the Major that he should engage the Russian in conversation, while I would give him a push from behind, and then both of us would manage to escape. We were so contemplating when General Reid himself came there, but

seeing us in this condition, he turned away without entering the room.

"On another occasion a Russian Colonel entertained us in his quarter, and as usual kept cups of a variety of wines running. At the end of the feast he showed us a wonderfully fine Cossack dance, in which performance he went running and jumping about in sitting posture, and kept singing at the same time. The dance being over, the Colonel took me in his carriage in order to take me to my quarters, but, arriving there, he entered our mess-court and again began drinking; indeed, he kept pressing others to eat and drink with him.

"Seeing this state of things, I quickly slipped away and entered my room, telling Hari Singh to have the door locked from outside and specially instruct the guards to give no clue if any Russian officer came in search of me. The Russian Colonel, with a few companions, did come after me, but I lay down quietly, and the poor fellows, seeing the doors locked, had to return disappointed. Russian officers form a sociable company, but their habit of drinking is extremely objectionable.

"Two of these officers always used to drink beyond limit. In Russia a white wine of the name of watkey or wodka is made, of which the people are exceedingly fond. I used to call one of these officers by the name of Watkey Senior and the other Watkey Junior. After my return to India I read in the papers that these two officers, who were so much given to drinking, had once quarrelled among themselves, and that one of them had shot a man with his pistol."

To the great disappointment of Sir Pratap the regiment got very little fighting, but in what little it had it created an excellent impression. The officers and men were absolutely devoted to him. In their first action, when charging a band of "Red Beards," as certain of the Boxers were named, the cry was heard

all over the field, " Has Sirkar (Sir Pratap) killed ?" and not until he had did any of the regiment use the right end of their lances. He was to be the first to have the honour of drawing blood.

Once the General received information that a body of the enemy were not far off, he proceeded in person to the place, taking one squadron of the Jodhpur Rissala and one of Cossacks, together with one company each of French, German, and Japanese infantry. Sir Pratap was with the advance-guard, but disappointment was to be his portion, for no trace of the enemy could be found. On the return march Thakur Hari Singh gave a much-needed lesson in chivalry to some of the Cossacks, who had caught some Chinese women and stripped them of their clothes. Luckily Hari Singh arrived on the scene, remonstrated forcibly, and insisted on the return of the clothes to the women. At this juncture General Reid appeared, and after soundly rating the offenders, remarked of Hari Singh's conduct " That was true manliness indeed "

Soon after this it was intimated in a dispatch from the Viceroy that Sir Pratap was at liberty to return home if he wished to do so. As might have been expected, he declined, asserting that he did not deem it proper to leave his regiment without their commander.

The Alwar Imperial Service troops were also in the field, but their commanding officer was a Sikh, and the force itself was not purely Rajput, but contained men of other communities from the Punjab and United Provinces. This leads Sir Pratap to the pronouncement " In my opinion, it is desirable in Indian regiments to have officers belonging to their respective communities. In that case, in times of danger, the men will have the necessary reliance upon their officers, while the latter will be mindful not only of his personal reputation, but of that of his tribe or community as well "

This opinion, coming from an Indian officer of Sir Pratap's standing and reputation, is of particular interest at the present time, when the whole question of providing Indian officers of the right type for the Indian Army is having the close attention of the military authorities.

Sir Pratap and the Rissala remained for seven or eight months at Shan-hai-Kwan, and were inspected by General Nicholson, Cavalry Inspecting Officer, and Count Waldersee, Field-Marshal over all the allied forces. Both of these officers praised the smartness of the regiment.

Before leaving China Sir Pratap and a few Sowars from the Rissala took part in a gymkhana at Peking. He at first declined the invitation, believing there was to be much betting, of which Lord Curzon, the Viceroy, greatly disapproved. General Gaselee, however, sent a personal request to Sir Pratap to reconsider his decision, and the Jodhpur contingent rode off with no less than eleven prizes, no other nationality winning more than two.

On the receipt of orders to return to India, Sir Pratap was asked to suggest a date for starting. Wishing his men to have pride of place among the Imperial Service troops, he replied that they were in no hurry, and might remain until the forces from Alwar and Bikaner had been sent back. This was readily acceded to, and, as the date so fixed was a month ahead, Sir Pratap and his staff, accompanied by Colonel Jay Gould, I.M.S., paid a short visit to Japan. He thus describes his impressions of Japan and the Japanese: "Reaching Tokio, we put up at an hotel and went about the city a good deal. At Tokio we also took the opportunity to pay a visit to the Emperor of Japan, or the Mikado. His Majesty received us with great deference and treated us very kindly. We also saw a review of the Japanese troops. How splendid the men were! Of fine physique,

smart, and perfectly well disciplined, their alertness was really astonishing. Everything was done with celerity and dispatch. Even their drill was made while running. The proofs they have given only recently, in the Russo-Japanese War,¹ of their bravery and manliness were even then apparent from their looks. Their very appearance gave me the impression that the Japanese troops were undoubtedly among the best soldiers in the world. One of their officers, General Nishimura, invited us to his house to dinner one night, and the following day he showed us his arsenal, where five hundred guns were turned out in one day. On one side the iron was being melted, while on the other side guns were coming out ready made.

'After remaining one week at Tokio we went to Nagasaki and some other places, the scenery of which was splendid. In this way we toured for about a month in Japan and were very much pleased with what we saw. Without doubt Japan is fully entitled to the advanced position which she has obtained in so very short a time. For the sacrifice which the leaders of Japan have made for their country was bound to produce extraordinary results. At the time of our visit, too, it would have been apparent to a careful observer that she was on the eve of a struggle with Russia, for a strange kind of fire animated the hearts of all Japanese. Even the commonest of common people were not willing to sell their arms, indeed, they took it very ill if asked to do so. Accordingly, it was with considerable difficulty that I managed to get one or two arms of theirs as samples. The victory which Japan has gained over Russia has been earned by her bravery, her capacity, and her earnestness. And so there is hardly anyone in the world who does not acknowledge her gallantry and pluck."

¹ This was dictated soon after that war ended

On the homeward voyage they stopped for a day at Hongkong, where Sir Pratap dined with the British Governor; the house was "on an elevated site, with the railway going up on one side and down on the other."

Sir Pratap had a great reception on reaching India. At Calcutta a large number of people, official and unofficial, came down to the ship to welcome him, and he received there a congratulatory telegram from the Viceroy, which led him to visit Simla to "pay his respects" to Lord Curzon before returning to his native place.

At Jodhpur the crowd at the station was so great that it was impossible for the numerous addresses, which had been prepared, to be presented, and they had to be postponed until the following day. They were justly proud of this son of Marwar, whose courage, unassuming character, and forceful personality had in the recent campaign brought added lustre to himself and to Marwar.

CHAPTER XII

MAHARAJA OF IDAR

WHILE still in China, Sir Pratap had heard that Maharaja Kesri Singh, chief of the Idar State, had died without an heir. Considering that he had a just title to the vacant Gadi, he laid his claims by telegram before the Viceroy and Lord Northcote, Governor of Bombay.

On his return from China, however, he learnt that a posthumous child was expected to be born shortly to one of the Ranis of the late ruler, and Sir Pratap was informed by the Viceroy that, if he wished, he might be appointed Regent of Idar.

Sir Pratap declined flatly. For one thing, he had vivid recollections of the troubles which had beset him when Regent of Jodhpur, and for another he was astute enough to see that, if he accepted, his position was likely to prove an invidious one.

If, during his regency, a son were born to Kesri Singh and any harm were to come to him, Sir Pratap, a recent claimant to the throne, would be the obvious target for the malicious attacks of his enemies.

He soon had reason to congratulate himself on the wisdom of his decision, for the boy, born shortly afterwards, survived but a very short time.

Several claimants were now in the field, but the award went to Sir Pratap, both by reason of his stronger title and by virtue of his public services.

The late Maharaja of Idar was the fifth in direct lineal descent from Anand Singh, third son of Maharaja Ajit Singh, the hero of Marwar, who brought to

a successful conclusion the thirty years' struggle (1681-1711) of the Rathores against the Mughal Empire. About the year 1735 Anand Singh became chief of Idar, which at that time included Ahmednagar and several other districts; according to Aitchison, Anand Singh and a younger brother possessed themselves of the principality of Idar, but Tod asserts that he was adopted into the Idar House. The Rathores of Jodhpur trace their descent from Seoji, grandson of the last King of Kanouj, and from Tod again we learn that his successor "lent his aid to establish his brother Soning in Idar." Anand Singh was succeeded by his son, Sheo Singh, who in 1773 gave Ahmednagar as a jagir to his second son, Sangram Singh. During the minority which followed the death of Sheo Singh in 1791, Sangram Singh made himself independent of Idar as chief of Ahmednagar.

Tod, writing in the time of Maharaja Man Singh of Jodhpur, said that "the issue of Anand Singh are heirs-presumptive to the throne of Marwar"; and he mentions that, in the law of adoption of the Rathores, "the issue of the younger brother maintains a claim, though adopted into a foreign and independent state." And again he writes: "On the demise of a prince without lawful issue of his body, or that of near kindred, brothers or cousins, there are certain families in every principality of Rajwarra in whom is vested the right of presumptive heirship to the Gadi." In Marwar this was limited to the independent house of Idar, of the family of Jodha.

On the death of Maharaja Man Singh in 1843, the mother of Jawan Singh, chief of Idar, claimed for him the Gadi of Marwar, and we learn that his claim to succeed was frequently recognized before Man Singh's demise by Colonels Tod and Sutherland, Agents to the Governor-General in Rajputana, and by the Government of India. Preference was, however,

given by the Rani and nobles of Marwar to Takhat Singh, a grandson of Sangram Singh, who had succeeded to Ahmednagar in 1841 after the death of his elder brother (1839), and that brother's son two years later. The fact that he, an active, intelligent man of twenty four, was in a better position to secure his interests than his rival, a minor, doubtless had much to do with his election. The name of Jaswant Singh, as heir-apparent, was associated with his in the deed of adoption, and the proceedings subsequently received the sanction of the Governor-General.

The Government of India, replying to repeated claims from the Rani of Idar on behalf of her son, admitted that Jawan Singh was nearest of kin to the late sovereign of Jodhpur, but deemed it inexpedient to interfere with the unanimous choice of the Rani and Sardars of that state.

It was ruled in 1848 that, as Takhat Singh had been recognized as chief of Ahmednagar, he could not "consistently with the custom and with the rights of Idar" accept Jodhpur without vacating his former chieftainship.

While the succession to the Jodhpur Gadi was still undetermined, Takhat Singh made a formal claim to the Gadi of Idar in the event of Jawan Singh succeeding to Jodhpur, and it was generally acknowledged that this claim would have been valid.

At the time of Kesri Singh's death, lineal heirs to the Idar Gadi existed in the heirs of Sangram Singh and Indra Singh the second and fifth grandsons of Anand Singh. In the genealogical table submitted by the Bombay Government the line of Sangram Singh is treated as extinct, on the ground that Takhat Singh, the last male member, had been adopted into Jodhpur. It is however, doubtful whether this adoption affected any claims of the younger branches of his line to Idar, and if, as we have seen, the Idar family had a presumptive right of heirship in Jodhpur, it seems

to follow that the Jodhpur family must have a similar reversionary interest in Idar.

Takhat Singh was a third cousin of the late Maharaja of Idar, and had ten legitimate sons. Of these, Jaswant Singh succeeded to Jodhpur, and was succeeded himself in 1895 by his son Sardar Singh. The second son, Zorawar Singh, was, as we have previously seen, a man of unsatisfactory character, and his claims were finally negatived by the Government. Sir Pratap was the third son, own brother of Jaswant Singh, their mother, who was of an Udaipur family, being the principal wife of Takhat Singh.

It will be seen, then, that Sir Pratap had a strong, if not absolutely unimpeachable, claim as next of kin, while his personal fitness for the post far outshone that of any other candidate.

He therefore dispatched his possessions, 80 horses, and 100 men to Idar, and bade farewell, as he thought, to Jodhpur with feelings of regret on January 31, 1902.

At Ahmedabad a number of officials from Idar were waiting to receive him. Thence he proceeded to Ahmednagar, where a large gathering welcomed him as their chief; from there he went to Idar, seventeen miles away, at that time the capital of the state. The installation took place in the Jiwan Niwas Mahal at a Darbar held in the afternoon of February 12.

At five o'clock Colonel G. B. O'Donnell, Political Agent, arrived. After presenting Sir Pratap with the state sword and bidding him sit on the Gadi, he delivered a speech, which succinctly sums up the reasons for selecting Sir Pratap to be the Maharaja of Idar, and briefly outlines some of the difficulties which faced him at the very outset.

The speech, which was translated into Gujarati for the benefit of the audience, runs:

"Maharaja Dhiraj Colonel Sir Pratap Singh, Sardars and Bhumias of Idar, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have received a Kharita from Government to

deliver to Sir Pratap Singh, and he has asked me to read it in open Darbar before presenting it to him

"The occasion for which we have come together this day is one that will be for ever memorable in the state of Idar, for I have been empowered by Government to instal a most distinguished scion of the noble Rathore House of Anand Singh on the Gadi which that powerful Rajput chieftain founded at Idar in 1731

'Ladies and Gentlemen, though Sir Pratap Singh has not been a frequent visitor to Idar, he comes among us now as one whom we have long known, for we have all heard of him as a courtly and honourable gentleman, a gallant soldier, a most successful administrator, a thorough sportsman, and thus the possessor of attributes which are appreciated by and evoke the sympathies of us, British and Rajputs alike. The facts that he holds the rank of Colonel in the British Army, that he accompanied General Neville Chamberlain's Mission to Kabul, that he served on General Elles's staff throughout the Mohmand Expedition, and that of His Excellency Sir William Lockhart, the Commander-in-Chief, during the Tirah Campaign, that he has lately returned from the command of the Imperial Service Lancers in China, that he is a Knight Commander of the most noble order of the Bath, that he has been invested with the Grand Cross of the most exalted order of the Star of India, that the University of Cambridge has conferred upon him the highest honorary distinction that it can bestow—viz, the degree of Learned Law Doctor—and, above all, that he was for several years Aide-de-Camp to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and has recently been promoted to the rank of Aide-de-Camp to His Imperial Majesty the King Emperor, bear eloquent testimony to his services to the Empire, while the ability and sagacity with which he carried on the administration of Jodhpur during critical times in the history of that state elicited universal applause "

Colonel O'Donnell then continued: "As you all know, this part of the country has just passed through the ordeal of the most terrible famine within the memory of man, and is still prostrate because of the scarcity that has resulted from scanty and unseasonable rain and plagues of locusts and rats, and the juncture does not lack elements which cause anxiety as to how we are to win through the approaching hot season and launch our population safely into the coming monsoon, which we all trust and hope may be copious and timely. But with Sir Pratap's distinguished record before us we are confident that all that is wise, kind, foreseeing, and statesmanlike will be done for the Idar State and its people. Everyone who has a slight acquaintance with the past history of the Idar State notices how it teems with instances of the most unswerving loyalty and self-sacrificing devotion manifested by the Bhayats, Sardars, and Bhumias of the Idar State to the Idar Gadi. That loyalty and devotion are as real and evident to-day as at any time in the past, and I feel sure that to it will be added an affectionate attachment to the person of Sir Pratap Singh, who cannot fail to win regard because of his attractive qualities and generous disposition.

"Maharaja Dhiraj Colonel Sir Pratap Singh, by virtue of the power entrusted to me, I place you upon the Gadi and declare you to be His Highness the Maharaja of Idar, the premier state of the ancient province of the Mahikanta. I present you with this sword in token that the full powers appertaining to the first-class state of Idar are now vested in you, and I do so with the knowledge that as the power has been committed into your hands, so the smooth softness of the velvet scabbard fitly typifies the generous clemency and the bright jewels that shine upon the hilt are true emblems of the justice with which it will be wielded.

"Your Highness, I congratulate you most cordially

on the high distinction to which you have attained, and trust that long life, health, and prosperity may be yours to enjoy this and even greater honours, and that the year which has seen your installation on the Gadi of Idar may be the first of a series of exceptionally prosperous and happy ones to Your Highness, your house, and your charmingly beautiful state "

After this speech had been translated, Colonel O'Donnell read the Kharita from the Governor of Bombay

" POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

' BOMBAY CASTLE,

' February 7 1902

" *To His Highness Colonel Maharaja Dhiraj Sir Pratap Singh Bahadur, G C.S.I , C.B , Maharaja of Idar*

" YOUR HIGHNESS

" It is with sincere pleasure that I congratulate you upon your succession to the Idar State, the recognition of which by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has already been communicated to you

" I regret that, owing to the numerous claims upon my time, I shall be unable personally to instal you and invest you with full powers as Maharaja of Idar I have deputed the Political Agent, Lieutenant-Colonel O'Donnell, to perform that ceremony

" The unfortunate condition to which the state has been reduced by recent calamities will be explained to you by the Political Agent I have the fullest confidence that the ability and devotion to duty, through which you have earned distinction in other spheres, will enable you to restore prosperity to the state by developing its resources and establishing an efficient administration It will be the duty and the pleasure of my Government to afford you all possible assistance in the heavy task which lies before you

" I commend the family of the late Maharaja to your sympathetic care and consideration In con-

clusion, I wish you good health and long life, to rule well and wisely over the people who have been committed to your charge, and to find the reward of your labours in their prosperity and contentment.

" I remain,

" Your Highness's sincere friend,

" NORTHCOTE."

In the course of his reply, Sir Pratap said:

" My first impulse from this Gadi of my ancestors on which you, Colonel O'Donnell, have just installed me is to very respectfully render my heartfelt gratitude to His Most Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor, and to their Excellencies the Viceroy and Governor-General of India and the Governor of Bombay, for the gracious recognition of my right to the Gadi, and I request you to do me the favour of presenting the same.

" My sincere thanks are also due to you for the trouble you have taken to come down all the way from Sadra, and for your kind and complimentary reference to the humble services which it has been my good luck to render to the Empire. Though my said services were humble, their appreciation and recognition by the Imperial Government have been very generous.

" The grace and magnanimity shown in this matter are positive facts which ought undoubtedly to impress the public in general, and my brother chiefs in particular, that the paramount power never omits to recognize even a trivial service if rendered in a true spirit.

" Personally, I feel fully gratified by the honour and distinctions which the said grace and magnanimity have enabled me to earn, and I do assure you I covet nothing more in that direction. I do not mean, however, to convey that I have no ambition left. There is but one ungratified desire which has

been ever and still continues uppermost in my mind, that desire being to have a little lead deposited in my head while fighting under the British flag "

The Political Agent's speech must have been particularly gratifying to Sir Pratap, and shows very clearly the value which Government put on his services. His record is unique among that of the princes of India, and, distinguished as it was when he succeeded to the Gadi of Idar, he was destined before the end of his life to bring added lustre to its brilliancy.

The state, as the Governor of Bombay and Colonel O'Donnell had outlined, was in a pitiable condition. The famine of 1899-1900 had brought suffering and disaster. Half the ryots had perished, houses were standing empty, fields untilled. Naturally this proved a financial loss to the state, whose revenue was also greatly depleted by maladministration, whereby expenditure had increased, and now amounted to four and a half lakhs, half a lakh in excess of revenue. Owing to these various causes, the state's liabilities now exceeded nine lakhs.

At the same time, many of the state officials were incompetent, ignorant of the modern methods of administration, and lacking both will and capacity to improve, others, too, there were whose posts were sinecures. So that altogether the need for a strong hand at the helm was pressing. For all that, Sir Pratap was prevented for a time from taking any active steps towards reform, as he was honoured by a personal invitation from King Edward to attend his coronation. He was compelled, therefore, to leave the management of the state for the present in the hands of the Diwan, under the formal supervision of the Political Agent.

Accompanied by Maharaj Kumar Daulat Singh, who was destined to succeed him on the Gadi, and five companions he embarked on the *Arabia* for his third

visit to England. He took the overland route at Marseilles, and was met at Dover by Major Pinhey (later A.G.G. in Rajputana), the Political Officer deputed by Government for the reception of the ruling princes from India. Colonel (afterwards Sir Curzon) Wyllye came part of the way to welcome his old friend to England.

As a guest of the Government, a house close to Buckingham Palace was at Sir Pratap's disposal. "Here," says Sir Pratap, "I felt quite at home, for on the one hand the Royal Family treated me as if I was one of them, while, on the other hand, the kindness of old friends knew no limit; even some officers who had belonged to the staff of Lord Mayo came to see me. The relations and dealings kept with me by all these were exceptionally kind and friendly. I spent day and night in their company, and went about a good deal. In the four months that I spent there I felt no sort of inconvenience.

"A few days before the date fixed for the coronation—*i.e.*, June 26—His Majesty the King-Emperor called me and invested me with the order of the K.C.B. with his own benign hands in reward for services in China, and presented me with a medal. I doubt if there is one among the princes and chiefs of India who is so fortunate as to have been decorated with the G.C.S.I. by the late Queen-Empress's own hands, and with the K.C.B. by those of the present King-Emperor. I consider these two incidents as a matter for great pride for myself. About the same time the name of my son [*sic*], Maharaj Kumar Daulat Singh, appeared in the *London Gazette* as an Aide-de-Camp of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and in a few days I was given the rank of Major-General.

"As the date of the coronation was coming near the enthusiasm of the people went on increasing. On all sides the preparations were going on with great

magnificence and splendour, and, indeed, everything had been completed, when all of a sudden the King-Emperor began to feel unwell. As a consequence, he was unable to be present at the Aldershot parade, and his part was gone through by the Prince of Wales. Still, however, there appeared to be no reason for anxiety, and it was the general expectation that His Majesty would be all right in a short time, and everything would come off according to the programme. The date for the great procession was near at hand, and all of us began to bring up and smarten up our clothes, when one day most unexpectedly a servant came in with the information that, in all the streets and public places, posters had been put up to say that the King's illness had taken a very bad turn, and that an operation was to be performed on him that very day, and that consequently the coronation was to be postponed. This fearful news fell upon the ears of all of us like a bolt from the blue, and, whether Europeans or Indians, all became dumbfounded.

"It is impossible to compute the gathering of men who had assembled in London to see this great celebration. There was no part of the world which had not sent its representatives for the occasion. And as to the residents of England itself, they were simply innumerable. In the lanes and alleys and market-places of London there was hardly any room to put foot on. I had seen both the Jubilees of the Queen-Empress, but the crowd gathered on this occasion was immensely larger.

"The horror-striking news of the King-Emperor's illness, however, made all their joy vanish and turned it into sadness as great, and by reason of the panic created, the confusion and noise, rush and crush, became even greater than before. At last, being sorely disappointed, people began to return by-and-by to their homes.

"All the time that the royal patient's condition

was serious, everyone was anxious to hear about it every moment. And so long as the eagerly waited bulletin did not come out, all were restless and would wait and wait for it till late.

"It was fortunate for me that the Princess Louise Victoria, who treated me as her own brother, often came to the High [sic] Park for riding; I also used to go there. Through her I could hear daily about the real state of the King-Emperor's health, and also to send my respects. Thank God that His Majesty was cured in a short time, and we got the opportunity of witnessing the auspicious celebrations of his coronation, for which we had to stay in England for another month and a half.

"The 9th of August was at last fixed for the celebration. As that day came near London began to be filled again, and there was a large concourse of people, but the gathering was not so large as on June 26. For many people from foreign countries had left for good on account of the heavy expenses which a stay in London involves, while people from country places in England, having had to return disappointed on the previous occasion, a very large number did not turn up this time. But there was small room for any comparison to be made between the respective numbers of the two gatherings, for on the second occasion, too, countless people were to be seen in the streets, lanes, and alleys.

"In this procession, as an honorary Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty, I rode in front of the royal carriage. To my right was the Maharaja Scindia, ruler of Gwalior, and to the left the Maharaja of Cutch-Bihar. The procession was several miles long, and presented a great variety of sights.

"On reaching Westminster Abbey, the rites of coronation were gone through according to usage, and the crown was placed on the King-Emperor's head. The rites appeared to me to be very similar to those

of India Oil and water were employed there in the same manner as in this country; and as amongst the Hindus Mantras from the Vedas are recited when tying the turban to the head of the King or in performing other rites, so there, too, passages from the Bible were read And, lastly, like the Brahmuns of India, the clergymen performed all the ceremonies This remarkable similarity could not help making me think that without doubt in some past age Englishmen and Hindus were one people Of course, as the result of the wider distance of space now separating them, and the long current of time which has elapsed, differences have grown up between them by-and-by

" Two hours were spent on this interesting ceremony After that a number of proclamations were read, and we all felt very happy at the time that we had seen the coronation of our sovereign with our own eyes But regret was felt also that the revered Queen-Empress, whom previously I used to see on every great occasion, was not present now Her absence was keenly felt by all I believe among the English there is not the custom, like that of the Hindus, of investing the eldest son with the rank and title of Yuva-Raj in the lifetime of the reigning monarch If such had been the case, and Queen-Empress Victoria had presided at the coronation of her son Edward, what a great occasion of joy it would have become, and how magnificent the function would have appeared !

' After a while a special day was appointed on which all the Indian chiefs with their attendants, as well as the guests from foreign countries, were to present their respects to the King-Emperor Every one of them was presented with the coronation medal His Majesty was still weak on account of his illness, and in the course of distributing the medals he felt somewhat tired And so, after presenting them with his own hands to the most prominent men, he sat down on his chair, and the Prince of Wales gave away the rest

" I stopped only a week after this event. My heart did not want to separate me from such excellent company, but I had anxiety behind me in connection with my state, which I had not yet even seen properly.

" When departing from London, many kind friends came up to the station to take leave of me, while Colonel Wyllie accompanied me up to Dover. The return voyage also passed off well, and we enjoyed it very much.

" In this trip the sympathy and good advice of Colonel Wyllie and the help of Major Pinhey proved of immense benefit to me, for which reason I am greatly obliged to both these gentlemen. And now that I am finishing the account of my third and last¹ trip to England, I take this opportunity of heartily thanking the British Government and my numerous English friends, who on all the three occasions treated me most kindly and gave me every help."

¹ He was destined to see England again.

CHAPTER XIII

AT IDAR

THE creation by Lord Curzon in 1903 of his "darling child," the Imperial Cadet Corps, at Dehra Dun, secured the hearty support of Sir Pratap, who was entirely sympathetic to its aims and objects. That he should be invited to be its honorary Commandant was a gesture as cordial as his immediate acceptance, and his appointment was ever a source of pride to the corps and to himself.

His ready help in enlisting a nucleus of Rajput cadets, among whom was his nephew, the young Maharaja of Jodhpur, was a potent factor in the successful launching of that too short-lived enterprise. The training of Rajputs, in his opinion, both here as well as at school or college, should be such as would permit of no time for eating the bread of idleness.

"It should," he averred, "furnish whole-time occupation for the young princes. In addition to brain work, physical work should also be taken from them, that they may go to bed fatigued and get sound sleep. Otherwise, in youth, if the daytime be spent in ease, the night has to be passed in restlessness. As the Cadet Corps is a military school for these young men, care should be taken from the beginning to create in them a taste for enduring hardships. In my opinion, either the annual vacation should not be given at all, or, if given, each cadet should be placed for the time in the charge of some elderly gentleman with a taste for sports, in other words, one who is a person of experience, and is given to spending his life

in active work. The result of this will be that during the vacation the young man will have no chance for seeking luxury and ease.

"It would be best if, for this purpose, some such gentleman could be got from the cadet's family, but, failing that, the cadet should certainly be placed under the supervision of some European officer."

This question of vacations was one about which Sir Pratap felt very strongly indeed, for he had a very low opinion of the influence of home life on the development of youth. His Spartan views and practices of life permitted no such thing as rest for either brain or body, and he was quite incapable of seeing that the course he advocated was, by its unbroken monotony, not at all unlikely in the case of many utterly to defeat the end he had in view. "Spoiling boy, Sahib," was his opinion of vacations, and, given his own way, he would have kept everyone *in statu pupillari* with his nose uncommonly close to a perpetually rotating grindstone.

Indeed, whether Sir Pratap had much sympathy with the higher technical objectives of the Cadet Corps is open to question. The intensive military education necessary to those who aspired to a commission in the Indian Army was probably a latter-day incubus in his eyes. "A steed, a steed of matchless speed, a sword of metal keen," and a gallant Rathore to wield it was, mayhap for him, a sufficiently satisfactory rendering of the complete soldier, and with himself as the archetype of that cult, who should say him nay?

Three months after Sir Pratap returned from the coronation the great "Curzon" Darbar was held at Delhi. It is a pity that, as in the case of the Jubilees, the very splendour of the spectacle seems to have been too much for Sir Pratap's powers of description. He says of it: "The Delhi Darbar is one of those things that will remain ever famous and

memorable in the history of India. All the Rajas, Maharajas, Nawabs, and Sahabzadas of this country, together with a number of great personages from other countries, were present on this occasion. The preparations had been going on since a year beforehand, and the pomp and splendour, and rush and crush, that attended the occasion were certainly worth seeing.

"This Darbar was conceived in Oriental style and carried out after the manner of old days. After a very long and brilliant procession leading up to it, the Darbar was held in the amphitheatre which was specially built for the purpose, and the King-Emperor's proclamation was read. For fifteen days various kinds of interesting functions were held. A large number of Indians and a good many Englishmen must have seen this Darbar with their own eyes, and so I refrain from describing it.

"Along with other states the state of Idar had been given a camp of its own at the Darbar, and all my companions and attendants had their quarters there. Being the Commanding Officer of the Imperial Cadet Corps, I personally put up in a tent in their camp. The Cadet Corps formed a constant contingent in the Viceroy's escort, and the distinction which this remarkable corps received on this occasion was a cause of applause from all, and for me personally a matter of pride."

Every inch a Rajput and a soldier looked Sir Pratap, with flashing eyes that no detail escaped, clear-cut profile with a proud curl to the nostril, and the stern mouth with its touch of humour lurking in the corner. So he rode by the side of the Commandant at the head of the corps, in its strikingly beautiful uniform of white with sky blue and gold facings, at the state entry into Delhi, and the crowd acclaimed him, as well they might. "They are calling my name," he whispered happily to the Colonel as they rode along. A splendid figure he

made on his black charger, " Fitzgerald," which was always stabled with the corps ready for the " Sirkar " whenever the spirit moved him to sojourn with his cadets.

It was typical of Sir Pratap that he should name his favourite after his friend Captain Fitzgerald of the Blues, who had found that perfect charger for him. "My Blues" he always called them afterwards, in affectionate remembrance of the days when they were his guests in India and made so gallant a bid for the Darbar Tournament.

It was during this visit of the Royal Horse Guards polo team to India that on one occasion they sent a wire to Sir Pratap asking him to stay with them; busy with the affairs of his state, his reply was: " Me catching income, so sorry cannot come." This form of excuse was evidently hailed as a *bon mot* worthy of Sir Pratap, for he made use of it subsequently more than once.

From that Darbar onwards, whenever the Imperial Cadets were on duty at state ceremonies, Sir Pratap was with them, a notable and knightly figure in the white uniform which thenceforward he adopted for all occasions of state.

The conclusion of the Darbar left Sir Pratap free at last to devote his attention to the affairs of his state. His first care was to remove the capital from Idar to Ahmednagar; the old capital, in keeping with the conditions prevailing in older days, was low-lying and surrounded by a girdle of hills. There was no outlet for the water brought down from the hills in the rainy season, so that the city and its environs were fever-ridden and unhealthy. Throughout the two hundred years of its existence Idar could boast of no houses fit for habitation by its rulers, the houses of the old Maharajas being cramped, dark, and insanitary; it was, moreover, remote from rail and river.

Ahmednagar, on the contrary, which was decided on after careful examination of a number of possible sites, was situated on the bank of a river in a large open space, affording opportunity for expansion. It was connected with that important centre, Ahmedabad, by a railway which did not then extend to Idar itself, and though but a small place, possessed historic interest in that it had been founded by Ahmad Shah, King of Gujerat, who surrounded it with a formidable stone wall which took seven years in the building. This wall was now but a ruined memorial of bygone days. To these advantages was added that of a good climate. To Ahmednagar, then, did Sir Pratap shift his capital, and there at once he set about the construction of a palace befitting the Maharaja of the state.

He now lent himself to administrative reform. There had been several successive minorities on the Gadi, during which the work of the state had been largely in the hands of Dewans, who seem to have carried out their duties in a very half hearted manner. The Maharajas themselves had taken little interest in state affairs, with the result that the Sardars did much as they pleased, several of them even openly defying the authority of their ruler. It is not surprising, then, to find that the revenue was small, but expenses large, and that the state was in debt to the extent of some ten lakhs.

Sir Pratap, little knowing what the future held in store, believed that his declining years were to be spent in putting the finances and administration of Idar on a sound basis.

"It is my regret," says he, "that this state did not come into my hands a few years earlier when my energies were yet fresh. Still, however, I hope that even in old age I shall by bidding adieu to ease and comfort be able to go on striving for its improvement."

A wider field for his labours was in store for him,

and a destiny beyond his dreams, with the culminating glory of drawing his sword once more in the service of his King-Emperor when over seventy years old, but his words are pregnant with wisdom and worth taking to heart:

“ Indian princes should keep the administration of their states in their own hands, and should attend to every business with forethought and industry. A state is like a clock, to keep whose parts in their proper places and establish harmony between them is the work of a practical watchmaker. One great lesson taken out of the experiences of my life which I wish to place before my brother princes is this: Give up love of ease and luxury, make yourselves in every respect fit to rule, and take personal interest in the work of your state.”

CHAPTER XIV

WITH H.R.H THE PRINCE OF WALES

FOR some time past H.R.H the Prince of Wales, afterwards King George V, had been contemplating a visit to India, and early in 1905 preparations were made for his tour during the cold weather of that year. There was subsequently the fear that the failure of the rains during the earlier part of the monsoon would entail a postponement, but improved weather conditions happily rendered this unnecessary.

To Sir Pratap's great delight he was notified by Lord Curzon, the Viceroy, that he had been appointed chief of the Indian staff to H R H throughout the tour. It was an additional source of pride and gratification to him that the appointment was made in accordance with the express wish of His Majesty King Edward VII.

It was thirty years since the Prince's father had visited India, and the news that his son was about to follow his example produced a wave of joyous enthusiasm. Sir Pratap gives a characteristic description of the arrival of their Royal Highnesses on Indian soil.

"At last the 9th day of November approached nearer and nearer, and Indian chiefs and nobles, European officials, visitors from foreign countries, and His Majesty's Indian subjects of all classes began to muster in hundreds of thousands in Bombay, pouring in from all quarters, company after company and crowd after crowd. And there was such rush and crush, such splendour and show, that those who saw Bombay on that occasion must have felt amazed as

to what strange things were coming. To attempt to speak of the 9th of November is useless. From midnight people began to leave their beds and occupy suitable places lest, with the increase of the rush, they should miss getting any seat at all. The decoration and embellishments of the streets and bazaars, and the vastness of the concourses of people, defy the powers of the pen to describe them. As the hour of the arrival of the Prince was nearing, the breasts of people heaved with expectant joy. No one thought of the heat of the crowd or cared for the cravings of hunger. In accordance with orders I was among those present and ready on the pier, and I was anxiously awaiting the time when I might set my eyes on my master. For there is a saying in Rajputana that to meet one's master is like having a vision of a golden sun. And so from a distance his ship came in view; my heart danced with joy. Lord Curzon, proceeding by steam launch, met the Prince on board the ship, and then returned to Government House, where he was to bid welcome to His Royal Highness, and the rest of us remained behind for giving him reception on the pier.

"When the Prince landed, in keeping with the old Rajput etiquette, I placed my sword on the ground, and then, bowing low, I touched his feet with my hands, which I placed on my eyes. I saluted the Princess in the same manner, only instead of touching her feet I touched the ground with my hands, according to custom, and then placed them on my eyes. There was not one present on the pier whose features were not covered with pleasure and joy on seeing their Royal Highnesses.

"After landing, the Prince proceeded to the Shamiana, where on one side were standing the Indian chiefs, while on the other were all the leading European officials and other prominent men. His Royal Highness shook hands with each and all with great pleasure,

after which commenced a magnificent procession, worthy of the dignity of the royal guest and for seeing which lakhs and lakhs of men had assembled. By whichever way the procession passed people cheered it loudly by clapping their hands, while they rent the skies with shouts of 'Hurrah!' and 'Welcome!' The Prince, on his part, went on returning the greetings of all by waving his hands on all sides, and from his looks it was apparent that he was deeply touched by this hearty welcome given by his Indian subjects. In this manner the big procession reached Government House, where Lord Curzon and his lady (who, alas, has since departed from this world) came forward to receive the Prince and Princess and make them welcome on behalf of India.

"The Prince remained in Bombay for six days, and a number of big dinners and entertainments were held in his honour which it would be tedious to notice at length. Suffice it to say that both the Government and the subject people of the western Presidency left no means untried to do justice to this happy occasion and please the Prince. Everything was arranged in first-class style and was worthy of high praise. A grand levee was also held which was attended by about 3,000 people, and which lasted up to 3 o'clock in the morning. The Prince's part in this function was a difficult and tedious one to go through, but the patience and power of endurance which His Royal Highness displayed was indeed admirable. When it was getting late I made a request through Sir Walter Lawrence that he might snatch half an hour's rest, but His Royal Highness declined and said that he was not tired at all. The strangest thing was that he was up on his legs up to 3 a.m., and went on meeting people and talking to them all the time.

"Not being accustomed to keep late hours, and the night having been a very cold one, I got an attack of fever on the following day, on which account the

medical officer of the staff forbade my accompanying the Prince to Indore and Udaipur."

Sir Pratap himself was a staunch advocate of "early to bed and early to rise"; his ordinary bedtime was between 9 and 10 o'clock, and he was up soon after 4 a.m. On this occasion his own "patience and endurance" were probably taxed to a greater extent than those of the royal visitor.

Sir Pratap resumed his duties on the staff at Jaipur, where he was afforded his first opportunity of witnessing the Prince's prowess with the gun. He gives a graphic description of his impressions:

"In accordance with programme, the Prince stopped at Jaipur for three days, and, after the customary meetings and visits were over, started on the morning of the second day for shooting blackbucks. His Royal Highness is exceptionally well practised in the use of the gun. I had heard praise of this on several occasions, but never had I seen him use a gun with my own eyes. And when I had a chance of doing it on that day I felt quite amazed. Indeed, I saw as I had heard. Of the shots that he aimed at the bucks, whether the animal was standing or running, not one missed. He also shot ducks on the way back at Amaniji-ka-nulla, where I felt even more surprised. One of his fires at a duck made a snipe fly by its sound, and although he was not prepared for it he felled it at once. This alertness of his was really astonishing.

"On the following day news was received of a tiger from Kukas, a place about eight miles from Jaipur. The Prince started in a carriage at one o'clock in the afternoon. The tiffin had been sent a short time before in transport conveyance, but on account of the sand they could not proceed fast, and it was getting very late. Accordingly, General Beatson and myself went back and brought the tiffin on horseback.

"Tiffin over, the Prince mounted on an elephant, and at 4.30 in the afternoon reached the place where

the machan had been erected for the sportsmen to sit. The tiger saw the Prince and all of us as soon as we took our seats, and so when the beating began it roared and ran in a direction at an angle from the machan at a distance of about 200 yards. But the Prince fired his shot with a very careful and well-directed aim, which struck the animal on the back and it fell down. Immediately it rose up and advanced towards the machan in a limping gait, but the Prince only kept watching it and did not fire another shot, although repeatedly asked to do so. At last when the beast came near he killed it with two good shots."

The next day news was brought in of another tiger, but it managed to slip through the beaters and escape before the Prince could reach the spot.

During the pig-sticking which was arranged at Jaipur for the royal staff an incident occurred which Sir Pratap was always fond of relating in his later years, and of which he had a somewhat crude painting made which hung in his house. He relates that "On the first day two parties started in different directions. One was the party of Lord Curzon, and in the other were Sir Arthur Bigge (now Lord Stamfordham) and Major Wigram. Sir Arthur had long passed the limits of youth, and had never before seen pig-sticking, but he was an excellent rider and a fearless sportsman. And simply by acting according to my directions he did his part so well that three boars were first-speared by him. On the second day it so happened that a wounded boar ran into an uneven piece of ground where the horses were afraid to proceed. When I spurred my horse it advanced and jumped over the boar. I had a spear in my hand, I struck the boar with it on the back just as the horse was over it in the air. This was a curious chance the like of which had never occurred before!"

Bikaner was the next place to be visited, and an Imperial sand grouse shoot was arranged at Gujner,

about twenty miles from the capital. The name of Gujner will bring to the minds of many Indian officials memories of the truly princely hospitality of His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner at those delightful Christmas camps, to which for many years invitations have been eagerly courted.

Sir Pratap, at one of these shoots, was in a butt close to the Jam Sahib of Nawanagar ("Ranji" of cricket fame), and near them was a distinguished guest who was carrying on an animated conversation with a Sardar in his butt. He was, moreover, the possessor of a set of very ill-fitting false teeth, which provided a lively accompaniment to the dialogue; result, no birds! At last Sir Pratap, goaded beyond endurance, called in despair to his friend: "Jam Sahib, I thinking no birds coming until clicking stops!"

Sir Pratap was anxious to have a further opportunity of witnessing the Prince's shooting.

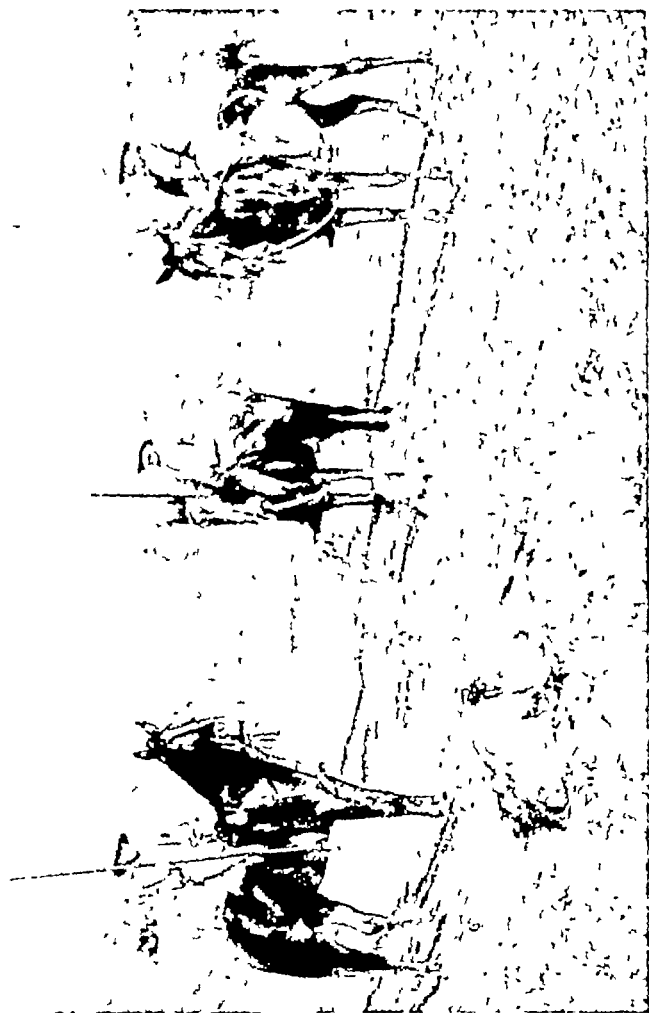
"There were," he says, "four or five seats prepared for the shooters, and of these one was intended for me also. But I had a great desire of seeing the Prince's shooting, so when he asked me to take my place I said I would rather like to sit near him, and on his gladly assenting to this I took my seat by his side. Two men were loading the guns for him, but the Prince gave them not the slightest respite, for at each flock of the birds that came he fired off three guns, or six shots—namely, two facing them when they were coming, two when they were overhead, and two more in their back when they were passing away. Never before had I seen such quickness in any person. I enjoyed it immensely when I saw him letting off his shots with such spirit and felling the grouse in clusters. For what was even more strange than the rapid firing was that rarely did any of the shots miss their aim. At a short distance to the right of the Prince sat the Maharaja of Bikaner. If the Maha-

raja happened to kill any bird wounded by His Royal Highness, he would say that it did not belong to his count, having been killed by the Maharaja. And if he himself killed one which had been wounded by the Maharaja, he would also decline to include it in his count, saying that the Maharaja wounded it. I could not help laughing at this strange way of his reasoning.

"That night it grew very late in talking after dinner, and it struck me that, as at Jaipur the Prince had got fever on account of fatigue, and that day too he had exerted himself hard, it was not proper for him to sit up late. Accordingly, I stepped to him from my seat, and in my choice English said, 'Now is a must be sleep,' meaning that it was time that he should retire to bed. After this whenever it was late in the night, and thinking that he had gone through a tedious programme in the day, I would rise from my seat and step towards him, he would at once rise up and, coming to me, say laughing, 'Now is a must be sleep,' and then retire."

A very similar incident occurred when the Prince's eldest son, our present Prince of Wales, visited Jodhpur in November, 1921. A state banquet was held on the night of his arrival, and the party were due to start before daybreak for a pig-stick at which Sir Pratap was bent on providing the Prince with his first pig. Consequently, at a very early hour after dinner Sir Pratap said to the Prince "You going pig-sticking to-morrow, now you going to bed," and with a smile he went.

Sir Pratap's veneration for the members of the Royal Family was responsible for the suggestion from him that it was not seemly for the Indian princes, on official occasions, to sit on the same level as His Royal Highness. In the case of the Viceroy he considered it was right and fitting, but not so with the Prince. He was very chagrined that his suggestion was not heeded, and himself invariably took a lower seat.



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As illustrating how strongly he felt about this matter, he relates an incident which took place at Hyderabad :

“ We were going out for sport, and a ravine fell on the way over which it was difficult for the motor-car to pass, and so the Prince took his seat in a carriage. As there was no other conveyance, Lord Crichton and myself stood behind him. The Prince bade me come inside the carriage and sit with him, but I declined because I did not think it proper to do so. His Royal Highness, however, insisted, and asked Lord Crichton to take me up by the arms and put me inside the carriage. Accordingly his lordship put out his hands to get hold of me, but I said I would rather jump into the ravine than sit beside the Prince. Upon this the latter laughed and told Lord Crichton to let me go.”

The tour led them to Lahore and thence to Peshawar. Throughout, Sir Pratap and General Sir Harry Watson, one of his closest friends, shared the same compartment. The night of departure from Peshawar Sir Harry was suffering from an intensely severe and painful cold on the chest, rendering sleep out of question; Sir Pratap nursed him the whole night long, tending him as if he had been a baby, and to his devoted care Sir Harry attributes his recovering enough to carry out his duties for the next few days.

Landi Kotal was next visited, where all the Maliks of the Afridis were assembled, and each presented a Nazar of a couple of sheep and a pot of honey to the Prince.

From the Khyber Pass they proceeded to Rawal Pindi, where the Prince and Princess were the guests of the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Kitchener. Here a grand review of troops and sham fight were held, which the Prince watched with interest from the back of an elephant. The sand and dust seem to have been particularly obnoxious to everyone on this occasion.

Jammu, where the royal party were the guests of the Maharaja of Kashmir, came next on the list,

people than making Delhi the seat of Government. When the Prince was carrying himself through the city before the eyes of his subjects it struck everybody's mind, whether Hindu or Mahomedan, as if there was a reascension of the throne of Delhi, and their Empire was in their very midst and before their very eyes."

Despite such an opinion from a source so authoritative, when this very announcement was made at the Delhi Darbar of 1911 it was, at first certainly, hailed as anything but the boon His Majesty had been assured it would be, and there are many who consider the vast sums spent on New Delhi might have been put to far better use.

Agra was, of course, on the programme, and their Royal Highnesses visited the Taj Mahal under ideal conditions in quiet, attended only by two Sowars, and by moonlight, which blends the work of God and man into a vision of dreamy reality.

Sir Pratap's coolness and ready wit were shown in a little incident at Lucknow. One day at Government House he was filling his cigar-case "from a box kept for the use of the guests, when Sir James la Touche (Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces) came near me. I said to him, laughing, 'I am your robber man,' meaning, 'I am coming robbery in your place.' Sir James was very much tickled, and laughed at my words. The next morning, when the Prince was about to go out, and I made him the customary salute, he laughed a good deal and said, 'Come along, my robber man.' At first I was somewhat puzzled at this, but I soon guessed that Sir James la Touche must have communicated my previous night's words to His Royal Highness. From that time to call me the 'robber man' became a matter of general pleasantry in the royal party."

At Gwalior the Maharaja Scindhia had prepared a reception worthy of his royal guests. One military

effect, which was a novel one to Sir Pratap, was the attack by a body of the state troops on a wooden fortress constructed for the occasion. The spectacle of the capture and burning of the fortress impressed Sir Pratap greatly.

Tiger-shooting naturally formed the chief part of the programme there. On the second day the Prince, from a very difficult position, fired four shots in quick succession at a tiger, which escaped into a thicket, and a discussion ensued as to whether it had been wounded or not. What followed is described by Sir Pratap in a very matter-of-fact way. "My impression was that it had certainly been struck by one of the shots, for it shook its tail strongly, as is the wont of tigers when wounded. The Prince believed that all his shots had missed, but I told him that one of them—namely, the third—had assuredly hit. Upon this, Dr. (Colonel) Charles proceeded down to discover the blood marks. He had in his hands only the bag of medicines, and, thinking that it was not safe for him to go without any weapon near a wounded tiger, I accompanied him with my gun. The Maharaja of Gwalior and General Beatson also joined us. On account of the bushes, however, no blood mark could be seen. We then advanced a little towards a hill from where it had been arranged to call back the beaters with a view to join them. We had proceeded a little distance when the wounded animal jumped up and fell upon one of the beaters. But as it was running down an incline its feet could not fasten upon the man, who therefore escaped without being seriously hurt.

"Looking at this incident from a distance, General Beatson drew my attention to it, saying 'See, the tiger is coming towards us. I have got only a stick in my hands.' I said, 'No fear, we are together, we have spent many days together, and it ought to be a matter of satisfaction to both that on such an occasion

also we are together.' When the tigress reached to about twenty steps from us I fired a shot which struck it on its ribs, and a second also hit in the same place. Limping about, the tigress turned in the direction in which was the Maharaja of Gwalior, who also fired a shot, and the animal fell.

"Coming up, the Prince was very pleased to see the game, when, pointing my hand, I showed him where the shot from him had struck it. This convinced him.

"The following day the mate of this tigress came to the same place, and arrangements were again made for a shoot. When we started by the motor-car we were under the impression that the Prince had left before. As a matter of fact, however, he followed us, and so he must have suffered a great deal of inconvenience from the dust and sand raised by our car. On reaching the place arranged, we found that the Prince had not yet arrived. After a short while, however, he came up, and said laughing, 'You have thrown upon us a good shower of dust to-day.'

"The Prince retired to the tent for tiffin, while I remained outside, for I am not accustomed to taking tiffin, and did not usually join in it. There were only two horses, one for the Prince and one for the Maharaja of Gwalior, and so I thought of proceeding slowly on foot to the place where the machan had been erected. Arrived at a distance of about one hundred steps from the machan I sat down, gun in hand, beneath a tree. By this time the Prince and the Maharaja of Gwalior also came up. Turning towards me, the Prince asked, 'Why did you come on foot?' I replied that, as His Royal Highness was taking tiffin, I thought I had better walk up slowly on foot. He then said, 'Now you had better get upon a horse in mounting this ascent, and I will go up on foot.' No sooner said than he got down from his horse, and then the Maharaja of Gwalior also got down. Feeling that I would be compelled to mount, I got on the Maha-

raja's horse The Prince always kept careful thought of me, and used to show me consideration, for which I feel extremely obliged to His Royal Highness

" Christmas came off at Gwalior, and we all offered presents to the Prince, who in return gave us pins, etc., as mementos To me he gave a cigar-case with his feather on it, laughing as he said, ' Take this, it is your robbery case ' I took it with the greatest pleasure, and threw my own case down on the pavement at the bottom of the palace Major Wigram ran down and brought it up and said to me, ' Your receiving a present has helped me to get a good thing '

" From Gwalior the Prince proceeded to Lucknow, but I went straight to Calcutta, for there I had to take charge of the Cadet Corps I put up at Government House with Lord Minto, the new Viceroy After doing Lucknow, the Prince arrived at the Howrah Station, from where a steam launch took him to Prinsep's Ghat, three miles down the Hoogly, where thirty years before his father, the King-Emperor, had landed from board ship on his visit to India Every arrangement was, of course, ready for his reception After the address on behalf of the capital city had been presented, the royal procession started with every accompaniment of splendour for Government House I was at the head of the Cadet Corps, and rode by the Prince on the right Wherever the procession passed cheers of joy and acclamations of welcome were raised aloud, from which it was clear how happy the people felt At Government House Lord and Lady Minto came up to the carriage door to receive their royal guests Lord Minto had a General's uniform on, a sight which somewhat puzzled me, for this was the first occasion that I saw (with pleasure) a Viceroy in military uniform After the ordinary introductions and formalities were over, the Cadet Corps were ordered to be presented Each individual member was introduced to the Prince, who was highly pleased

to see them, and asked me to express satisfaction on his behalf, telling them that the escort furnished by the corps had gratified him very much. . . .

“ Among other things that were in the Calcutta programme, it was the Prince’s part to lay the foundation stone of the Victoria Memorial Hall. This was a ceremony pleasurable to all Indians, for the name of the Queen-Empress Victoria is taken with the greatest respect throughout the country, and is on the lips of even children.

“ Another thing very interesting and worthy of record was the visit of the Tashi Lama of Tibet. The small shaggy ponies with long hair belonging to his escort, his companions, his palanquin, the band accompanying him—in short, all things connected with him—were most peculiar and a great source of amusement to people. When the Prince was paying the return visit to this holy functionary, tea was served to His Royal Highness, which had been prepared in Tibetan fashion with a peculiar sort of butter put in. This emitted a strange smell, on account of which, not to speak of drinking the tea, even holding the cup in the hand was a matter of great difficulty, for it was enough to sicken a man. When such was my feeling, it could be well imagined how the Prince and his staff felt over the cups. The Lamas were puzzled that the Prince did not do justice to their hospitality, but we took in the situation from the play of colours on his features.

“ From Calcutta the Prince took ship for a tour in Burma. The places to be travelled being now beyond the limits of India, while my services were intended to be rendered within its borders, I did not accompany His Royal Highness, but left Calcutta with Lord Shaftesbury, who was proceeding to Gwalior for sport.

“ I returned to Calcutta after a week, and from there proceeded, with others of the royal party left behind, to Madras, where the Prince was to arrive from Burma.

Here Lord Ampthill received His Royal Highness and discharged the duties of host in a most befitting manner. The season was highly enjoyed, and the city being on the sea coast, the Prince felt very happy.

"From Madras the next stage was Mysore. The programme of this place included an exceptionally interesting feature—namely, the capture of wild elephants. Since some time previous a number of wild elephants had been enclosed in a jungle. By continual showing of fire and light, these were drawn into the bed of a river possessing high banks, all passages for getting over had been closed beforehand. Being thus drawn in, they were then led by means of a special passage into a circular compound a mile in circumference, and then again closed in. For the entrance of this passage it had been arranged that the pressing of an electric button would shut the gates. It was the Prince's part to press the button and to close the doors of the passage. The next day, by the aid of trained elephants, the wild ones were led by another passage into an inner narrow circle, while three big-tusked elephants were made to stand on the passage. The Prince had his seat upon a raised platform from which everything could be well seen. Two trained elephants were put after a big wild elephant, one being set on each side. Then the Mahawat threw a strong piece of rope round the hind-legs of the wild elephant and tied them together with it, and another rope was by-and-by thrown round the animal's neck. This being done, the trained elephants brought out the wild one by pulling at the ropes. It was a very big beast. In the same manner a number of other elephants were also secured by means of ropes thrown round the hind-legs and neck. In the case of very small ones, only one rope thrown round the neck sufficed. Strange to say, none of the wild beasts thus caught attempted to inflict any injury

upon the Mahawats or anyone else. The reason is that elephants cannot look upwards. How the intelligence of man does give him strength, so that even an animal like the elephant is brought under control by its defect being taken advantage of!

"The Prince was sitting so near where all this was passing that his position seemed to me to be dangerous, and so I urged upon him that the place was not a proper one. But he bade me not to be anxious, and said, 'You, too, may sit here,' and I did as I was told without any hesitation. The elephants passed so near by that we could have touched them. A she-elephant, breaking through the barricades of the narrower circle, passed into the larger one, and taking up a man by her trunk, dashed him upon the ground, causing severe hurt. The elephantess, we learned, had been caught once before, but had managed to run away. On the present occasion she was tied to a tree by means of a rope thrown round her neck, but she struggled and struggled to get away until she died on the spot.

"One day the Prince went out for bison-hunting. I had never seen this animal, and so I was anxious to join in the sport, but when I came to know from General Beatson that it belonged to the bull species I gave up the idea. However, no bison was found. Another day arrangements were made for tiger-shooting. The machan erected was at a great distance, and the Prince had to go on foot for about four or five miles. The beating was well done, but unfortunately no tiger appeared. From there the Prince proceeded to another place about four miles distant, but there also nothing was obtained. And so, finally, he had to return without any game and on foot. That day the Prince had walked about fifteen miles in the jungles. I got a peculiar pain in my feet, on account of which I could hardly even raise my steps, and so I got upon a pony. When the Prince sat to

tea I found him perspiring profusely I remarked that he had had to undergo much hardship that day, but in his royal way he replied No, for many a day I had had no perspiration, and so I have managed to bring out perspiration to-day'

"The experience of that day, however, made General Beatson write to Hyderabad privately that as far as possible there should be arrangements for conveyance up to the machan

"From Mysore the Prince went to Bangalore This is a very handsome place and military station A review of troops on a small scale took place here

The Nizam's dominions are the largest of any native state in India, and His Highness is the foremost and highest honoured among the Indian feudatories And the arrangements made at Hyderabad for the reception of the Prince and discharge of the rites of hospitality were of the first order, such as might have been expected

'Here an idea of mine found striking corroboration At Bombay I had suggested that the umbrella held behind the Prince as a mark of royalty should be carried by some high official, and not by a man of the peon class, for such is the Imperial custom At Hyderabad we found a Sardar of position, who subsequently presented Nazar also to the Prince, deputed to hold the Chhatar (big umbrella) at His Royal Highness There were gymkhana sports one day in which the most interesting thing was that His Highness the Nizam and his son threw up gold mohurs and aimed shots at them"

A gloom was cast over the visit to Hyderabad by the death of the Nizam's daughter, causing the abandonment of most of the ceremonies arranged in honour of the royal visitors, and most of the time was spent in shooting

'The hunting camp had been placed at a distance of about twelve miles from Hyderabad city The

beating arrangements were excellent, one curious and very convenient feature being that on each side of the machan up to a distance of half a mile posts had been erected carrying flags of different colours, which floated at a height of about 2 feet from the ground. On account of these flags, the tiger could not go this way or that, but was forced to go straight down to the machan. . . .

"The next day a tigress put in an appearance. On the beating having commenced, she also came towards the scaffolding. Once in the sight of the Prince, and escape was out of the question. As she fell I was going to verify my impression that it was female, for the face was longish, while the face of the male tiger is more of a square. As I rose the Prince's barber, Charles Jaschke, stepped forward quickly and, reaching the tigress, began to examine her by raising the hind-legs. The Prince laughed, and I also could not refrain, and said: 'Just look, there is your Mr. Barber.' Everyone laughed at this, including the barber himself, who in tones of mock scolding cried out at me, 'Well, you have disgraced me before all.' After this my pleasantries with Charlie increased, and whenever he came to shave me I would laugh much and never fail to ask him if he remembered the incident."

After Benares it had been arranged that the royal party should proceed to Nepal to enjoy the wonderful big-game shooting for which the state is noted, but a great disappointment was in store. Cholera broke out in the Terai camp, and the visit had to be abandoned. Arrangements were hastily made for the Prince to shoot again at Gwalior, and many members of his staff paid brief visits to other places. Sir Pratap entertained Lord and Lady Crichton, Lady Keppel, and Captain Cadogan, together with his friend, Sir John Milbanke, of the 10th Hussars, from Meerut. Small-game shooting and pig-sticking were to be had

in plenty round Ahmednagar, and it may be noted that Lady Crichton gained two first spears herself.

The Prince went from Gwalior to Aligarh and Quetta, which was the last place to be visited prior to his embarkation at Karachi for the voyage home. Sir Pratap felt his departure deeply, as is evident from the account he gives of it.

"He stayed at Karachi three days, and then came the day when his Indian subjects had to part with him with great regret. In the Prince's countenance also, although he was returning to his dear home, signs of distress were visible, from which it was clear how great was his sympathy with India. All of us who had been with him for four or five months felt the approaching separation most keenly, for he had mixed with us with the greatest kindness and condescension, and his truly royal soul had won the hearts of all. When I was making my farewell salute to him, the blue feathers affixed to my turban stuck in the Prince's G.C.S.I. medal and were left there. The Princess took them up and, putting them in her button-hole, said to me, 'I have your turban feathers with me, and I will keep it as a memento.' In bidding good-bye to their Royal Highnesses I could not hold my heart, and tears of grief came out of my eyes. Others present keenly felt this occasion of separation, and had their eyes filled with tears. Sir Walter Lawrence was in such plight that he could not even keep on his legs, and so without going through a formal parting he slipped quietly into his cabin, and as the steamer was weighing anchor he put out his hand from the cabin window and, calling out my name, made me his final salute. The Prince stood on the deck and looked towards all with eyes of affection. When the ship had embarked, cries of 'Hurrah!' were raised by those on the shore. To me this appeared somewhat unseemly, for it was not an occasion of joy, but one of regret and sorrow.

“ That day all returned to their several homes, and I came back to Ahmednagar filled with grief at the separation from my master. For a long time my mind was quite uneasy, and the scenes of the bygone days presented themselves before my mind's eye. But there was no help, and ultimately I had to cultivate patience.”

CHAPTER XV

RETURN TO JODHPUR

SIR PRATAP was now free to initiate some much-needed reforms in the administration of Idar. He had a rooted objection to leaving in the hands of others work which he felt capable of doing himself. To this end he abolished the post of the Idar Vakil attached to the Residency at Sadra, and took all the correspondence with the Resident direct into his own hands, thus making himself his own Political Secretary. Private and confidential work was carried out by Babu Umrao Singh, his Private Secretary, under Sir Pratap's supervision, and other state matters were transacted through the Hazur Office, afterwards named the Mehakma Khas.

The Customs and Excise Departments, if they could be called such, were in the same chaotic condition as had existed at Jodhpur before Sir Pratap took in hand their reorganization. Many of the Sardars and Jagirdars had their own stills in their villages, they levied customs duties on all exports and imports in their own territories, whether or no these were from within or without the state, and commodities coming from one state village to another were even liable to duty. Sir Pratap remodelled both the departments after the Jodhpur plan, and placed them in the capable charge of Babu Umrao Singh. As in Jodhpur, the Sardars were compensated for their loss of revenue, while both state and ryots benefited by the change.

It was the custom in Idar when a son was born to the ruling prince for Charans and Bhats to recite laudatory

couplets of poetry in his honour; in return they received personal gifts of villages from the chief. Sir Pratap disapproved of this, as being contrary to the interests of the state, and attempted to confiscate such villages. Local custom proved too strong for him, however, and he was only partially successful.

A geological survey of the state was made, and minerals, including asbestos and soapstone, were found. A good impetus was given to the working of the Ahmednagar stone quarries, and the stone was exported in considerable quantities.

Sir Pratap was desirous of extending the branch line from Ahmedabad to Prantij as far into the Idar state as possible, and after lengthy negotiations prevailed on the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway to extend it to Brahma-Khed.

Education always interested him. He found the Education Department of Idar was controlled by the Bombay Government, who on his urgent representation retransferred the control to the state. When this was done, several new vernacular schools, including two for Bhils, were started, and a high school was opened at Idar itself.

The name of the new capital, Ahmednagar, was not acceptable to Sir Pratap, whose request to Government to change it to Himmatnagar was a very reasonable one, as there was much confusion with Ahmednagar, Deccan, and many letters went astray in consequence.

Of Sir Pratap's remaining years at Idar there is little of interest to chronicle. The state was a small one, and there was little scope for his powers and energy; it seemed as if he was destined to fade into comparative obscurity, but there came an unexpected turn of fortune's wheel which brought him during the last ten years of his life into greater prominence than ever before. Lord Curzon, who was certainly not one of his greatest admirers, had said, "To Idar I

have sent him, and in Idar he will remain " Lord Curzon was wrong

Early in 1911 Maharaja Sardar Singh of Jodhpur contracted a chill which developed into pneumonia, and in a few days proved fatal. When the news of his nephew's untimely end reached Sir Pratap, he lost no time in cabling a request to the King that he should be appointed Regent in Jodhpur, as the young heir, Summair Singh, was a boy of but fourteen years. His Majesty at once communicated this request to the Viceroy, Lord Hardinge, expressing the hope that due consideration might be given to Sir Pratap's claims.

The chief political officer in Rajputana, however, strenuously opposed the appointment, and for some days the issue hung in the balance. The scale was finally turned by the production of a letter setting forth Sir Pratap's previous services in Jodhpur, and which it may be well to give in its entirety.

It was written, when Sir Pratap relinquished office in 1899, by Colonel Powlett, who had been one of the best and most universally respected Residents Jodhpur has ever known, to Colonel Wyllie, Resident, Western Rajputana States.

March 10 1899.

MY DEAR WYLLIE,

" You have requested me to write a letter for record on the services of Sir Pratap Singh. I shall address it to the Resident, Western Rajputana States, lest you should have left on promotion.

' When I went to Western Rajputana as Political Agent in 1880, Pratap Singh was not in office. He had been ousted by a conspiracy of Jagirdars encouraged by the Maharaja, who, however, had greater confidence in Pratap Singh than in anyone else. I got Pratap Singh remade Minister (the title Musahib Ala dates from that time), believing that he was the only man who could and would promote reforms.

effectively, and my trust in him was fully justified. He never failed to push forward what was essential, never deceived me, never intrigued. Next to financial improvement, the suppression of dacoity and robbery was the most pressing thing, and Pratap Singh himself took charge at first of active operations. Thus it was he who, partly by show of force, partly by persuasion, induced the Rana of Lohiana to yield and accept conditions which at that time were thought extraordinarily likely to cause an outlawry which would greatly increase the turmoil of the troubled country. Bathu Singh of Bhatana's 'outlawry' had recently been practically successful. Sadul Singh of Rewara and the Panchota Thakur were harrying the country, and there were other elements of disorder to encourage defiance. I screwed up my courage to face the danger of a new outbreak more serious than any previous one, and I shall never forget the anxious twenty-four hours I passed while Pratap Singh was negotiating with the Rana. He conducted the business with great ability, and carried it through to my intense relief. There were subsequent difficulties and vexations, but the neck of systematic dacoity and theft, Thakurs' freebooting, etc., was broken when the Lohiana Rana yielded to Pratap Singh. Lohiana was the most formidable stronghold of robbery and disaffection in the state. Next to it as a plundering base was perhaps Barwa on the Shekhawati border. That, too, Pratap Singh dealt with. He took charge of a sudden expedition against it, acted with much vigour, and was quite successful.

"I mention these cases as examples of Pratap Singh's active work, and I need not tell how he helped in boundary settlement; how he furthered the establishment of real courts of justice, the reclamation of criminal tribes, reforms of the customs; how a treasury was started, the Maharaja's debts at length paid off, and a surplus for public works (including a railway

across the desert to Sind and large irrigation tanks), and Imperial Service troops obtained. All this and much besides are written in the chronicles of your office, and nothing would have been done if Pratap Singh had not been straight. What we did was sometimes carried through in spite of the late Maharaja's secret opposition, for though he cared for Pratap Singh and knew he was the best man he had, yet he would occasionally support an intrigue against him. I do not complain of Maharaja Jaswant Singh, who never showed ill-will, knew that the Resident's advice was the best he could get, and trusted him, but could not entirely escape the influences about him, nor always deny himself the pleasure of an intrigue, so that he sometimes made Pratap Singh's position difficult.

"I used not in reports that were to be printed to say much about Pratap Singh, because such mention was calculated to make the Maharaja jealous, so Pratap Singh's substantial and valuable work has been brought little to public notice. I fancy he is thought in the Army and pretty generally by Europeans to have been knighted for being a good sportsman and jolly fellow. I happened to look him up in Debrett the other day. There is not a word about his administrative work, though the fact of his going with the Frontier Expedition is duly recorded. I thought this a pity, for people who might care to know something about him have no ready source of information. I think of the lines in *Punch* about Keshab Chandra Sen, when he visited England, beginning.

Who on earth, of living men,
Is Baboo Keshab Chandra Sen?

It is difficult now to realize what was the condition of Jodhpur in 1880 (though it is set forth in annual reports), and the change since then must be attributed to Pratap Singh. This, if he should retire from office,



SIR PRATAP WITH THE REGENCY COUNCIL, JODHPUR, 1914

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should be borne in mind, and due provision made for his dignity and comfort.

“ Believe me,

“ Yours very sincerely,

“ (*Signed*) PERCY W. POWLETT.”

This letter, which carried so much weight, had accidentally been mislaid, and its existence was not known to the authorities until it was most fortunately come upon by chance in an old file. This evidence of what Jodhpur owed to Sir Pratap could not be controverted, and he was appointed Regent of Jodhpur, with a small council of four Indian and two European officials to assist him in the administration. That his appointment was justified is amply proved by the further marked development of the resources of the state during his tenure of office.

It was a short time after his return that he was one day at the stables putting a number of riderless horses over jumps, and happily cracking his whip to insure that there were no refusals, when a looker-on drew the Resident's attention to him, and smilingly quoted Lord Curzon's dictum, of which the living contradiction was before them.

Before embarking on his duties at Jodhpur it was necessary for him to abdicate the Gadi of Idar, on which he was succeeded by his nephew and adopted heir, Daulat Singh.

After these formalities had been concluded he departed for England to attend the coronation of King George V, taking with him his great-nephew, the young Maharaja, who, in accordance with the wishes of his father, was to be sent to an English public school.

Summair Singh was accordingly placed at Wellington College as a day boy, living with his guardian, Major A. D. Strong, at Bracknell near by.

Sir Pratap has, unfortunately, left no record of this

visit, when he was treated as a guest of the British Government. He renewed many old friendships and increased his personal popularity, but would seem to have had no experiences of particular interest.

It was on this trip that one of his fellow-passengers on the boat was a portly Indian of political tendencies. On several occasions his attempts to open up conversation were coldly received by Sir Pratap, but he ran his quarry to earth at last and began volubly commiserating with him on the confinement of the voyage, which necessitated the temporary loss of his polo and pig-sticking. Sir Pratap looked down his most expressive nose as he said with withering scorn, "Your istomach and mine, look at it," and the conversation was at an end!

Sir Pratap took back with him to India his son, Rao Raja Narpat Singh and Thakur Dalpat Singh, son of his old friend Harji of polo fame, both of whom had been at Eastbourne College for close on eleven years. The boys, not having revisited India since their childhood, had become altogether English in their ways and had forgotten most of the customs and etiquette of their own land. On meeting Sir Pratap after this lapse of years his son raised his top-hat, made a polite bow, and extended a hand to his father. Instead of meeting with a cordial response, he was aghast to be received by one of Sir Pratap's most stony and withering glares for having forgotten the salaam, with hands raised palm to palm as if in prayer, which etiquette demanded of him.

On another occasion the two boys were with Sir Pratap when the artist who was painting the portraits of those Indian chiefs attending the coronation came to their hotel. Sir Pratap had entirely forgotten that a sitting had been promised at this time, and had moreover, allowed Thakur Ram Singh, who was in charge of his wardrobe, to go out, taking with him the key of the box which contained

the uniform of the Imperial Service troops, which Sir Pratap had selected for the occasion. Oblivious of the fact that London is somewhat larger than Jodhpur, and that one Ram Singh might be a less notable figure in the former city than the latter, he turned to Narpat and Dalpat, saying: "You boys knowing London; you taking taxi going this way; you taking taxi going that way; bringing Ram Singh." They departed as bidden, and after drawing one or two possible places blank, they each proceeded to run up about a couple of sovereigns' worth on the meter and returned empty-handed, to learn that a blacksmith had been summoned to solve the problem by breaking the box.

CHAPTER XVI

SECOND REGENCY

It was a few months after Sir Pratap's return to Jodhpur in 1911 that my personal knowledge of him began. The first time I saw him without actually meeting him is graven on my memory. It was in 1910, in the church at Mount Abu, the little hill station of Rajputana, the occasion was the memorial service the Sunday after King Edward's death. In the centre of the church stood, side by side, two soldierly figures in uniform—Sir Pratap and the Maharaja of Bikaner, they might have been carved out of stone and yet the depth and sincerity of their grief made itself unmistakably felt. Again, at the prize-giving of the Mayo College, Ajmer, he sat with unmoved countenance the while a great nephew, shaking in his shoes at his presence, recited "The Walrus and the Carpenter" in most creditable fashion. I had seen him, too, repeatedly a prominent figure in attendance on the King in Calcutta, but it was not until early in 1912 that I was privileged to meet him.

I went to call on him at his house, that quaint structure of which so many Europeans, soldiers in particular, will have kindly memories of warm and open handed hospitality. The ground floor contains four bedrooms divided by two wide passages, crossing the house at right angles and so forming four outer sitting- or waiting rooms, with an octagonal and dark drawing-room in the centre. There was no one about when I arrived, but soon after I called "Koi hai"

Sir Pratap appeared with outstretched hand and his hearty "Come anong, Sahib" (for he had great difficulty with the letter *l*), with the emphasis on the "nong," was enough to warm the heart of any stranger. He was dressed, as usual, in clothes of the oldest, and his frayed Jodhpurs threatened to descend at any moment; his topee was old and stained, and his curiously bent legs gave him an awkward limp; but it was the man himself that counted, and my impression was, "Here is a man, and you are the better for knowing him." By the way, the story of those bent legs dated back from his early days. He had climbed a high tree and his companions dared him to jump; to their horror he did so instantly, and broke both his legs, injuries which were accentuated by numerous accidents at subsequent dates.

For the first two months of my service in Jodhpur I was Sir Pratap's guest. Behind the house were the two polo-grounds of red sandstone, trodden fine by horses or, on one occasion at least, by an elephant. By the gate leading to these my bed was placed nightly with a fragrant garland on the pillow—a pleasing mark of Sir Pratap's attention—and before dawn strings of horses passed me on the way to the race-course across the polo-ground. As I rose at six, "You lazy Sahib" was the jovial greeting from my host, who had put some two hours of the day's work behind him already.

Who that has seen it will forget the race-course?—that dusty, animated track thronged with Thakurs, Europeans, syces exercising their horses, and Sir Pratap in charge, ordering, dictating, instructing, missing nothing; not one person but received his or her orders, and woe betide him who failed to carry them out to his mentor's satisfaction. Before the lash of his tongue strong men quailed and crept away like terrified children.

One of his own experiments on the race-course is

characteristic of the man. He dreamed one night that his horse had bolted with him, and was careering across country entirely out of control, in spite of all his efforts to stop the animal. In his mad flight he passed a fakir sitting under a tree, who said to him, "Put the reins round your neck, my son." He tried this in his dream, and succeeded in stopping the horse.

Next morning on the race-course he deliberately let his horse get out of control and tried the expedient suggested by his dream, and found it, to his satisfaction, very effective.

In those days the present Maharaja, Ummaid Singh, aged about eight, was receiving daily riding lessons under his great-uncle's eye, and after they all had returned from the race-course to the house, his younger brother, Maharaj Ajit Singh, and Sir Pratap's youngest son, Abhai Singh (both about five years old), used to arrive to practise hitting the polo-ball. In turn each would sit astride a garden bench wielding a miniature stick, some of the elder boys would roll old balls to them from all angles, and the embryo players were kept busy, with a furtive eye, be it understood, on the silent watcher the while. Sir Pratap was very fond of children and they, in turn, instinctively responded to his kindly ways.

After breakfast Sir Pratap used to give audience to high and low in the broad veranda outside his own room. Here came members of council to discuss weighty affairs of state, here the poorest, humble but verbose, brought their little grievances, here reports of all kinds were brought to him. In all such cases Sir Pratap's mind was soon made up, and his decision given in a few trenchant words.

His judgment was not infallible, but a strong common sense and a sound knowledge of men enabled him to arrive at conclusions which were not often mistaken, and were often far-seeing; he was always ready to hear the other side of an argument, and was in general



SIR PRATAP ON THE POLO-GROUND CHABUTRA.

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open to reason, although on occasion neither fact nor argument could move him from his determination.

In the afternoon he either rode or else there was polo. Until his last years he generally played himself, but when a spectator he was wont to sit on the redstone and marble stand at the end of the ground near his house watching every movement of the game, selecting the players chukker by chukker, and, above all, silent. While the game was in progress he loathed being spoken to or made to speak, although his courtly manners forced him to reply briefly to a too conversational guest. Opposite to him on the stone bench sat a row of glum and silent Thakurs—the Trappist monastery, as a well-known political officer happily described them—to one or other of whom between chukkers he would now and then bark out a question. He was very strict with all his Sardars on the question of drink; only his guests were allowed to partake of a whisky and soda after the game, and in earlier years he was in the habit of measuring out even to them the limited quantity he deemed adequate.

On one occasion one of his Thakurs had been drinking heavily, and to him Sir Pratap meted out disciplinary treatment. He was sent for from his village, and was told to report himself to Sir Pratap at his house twice a day—at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sir Pratap used to avoid seeing him (by leaving the house by some way other than the front door) until after the morning exercise, probably about 11 a.m., and at night the culprit would again be kept waiting until 10 p.m. before an audience was vouchsafed to him.

Dinner was an early meal taken in the garden, for the weather was hot, with horses cropping the grass all round us, greyhounds thrusting up appealing heads for some choice morsel, and an occasional rush and scurry as a sleepy syce dropped the headrope and a horse went careering into the darkness, pursued by a volley of stentorian commands from the irate Sir Pratap.

After dinner Sir Pratap betook himself early to his bed, a long and wide wooden plank like a table-top rather higher at the head than at the feet. On this his bedding was laid, and at the foot was a small platform about twelve inches high where the dogs slept at their master's feet.

Sir Pratap has, unfortunately, left scarcely any record of his family life. By his first wife he had one daughter who afterwards married the Thakur of Bera, she might have made a grander match, but Sir Pratap preferred to choose a husband who was likely, in his opinion, to make her happy and would be controlled by him. The mother died in giving birth to this child, who was brought up with devoted care by Sir Pratap's other wife, who was childless. Sir Pratap was devoted to her, and this was probably why he never married another lady of his own rank. He had four Rao Raja sons. Of these, Narpat Singh is Comptroller of the Maharaja's household (a born organizer, he received the well earned title of Rao Sahib for his work in running the camp at Jodhpur for the Prince of Wales in 1921), Hanut Singh, of whom Sir Pratap was extremely fond, accompanied him throughout the war, and is now in the very front rank of polo-players, Sagat Singh, a quiet unassuming boy, was a universal favourite (a fine soldier, he gained the Military Cross in Palestine, but after the war he developed lung trouble and died at an early age).

His own disappointment at having no real heir was really keen, though he used to pretend he was glad, for a son, he said, would have "bad-named him," and he wished his name to remain untarnished.

Sir Pratap's surviving wife was a woman of exceedingly fine character, and in an unostentatious way was of great help to her husband.

She was very devout, a deep thinker, educated, and well read. She rose early, and spent two or three hours in prayer and reading her sacred books. She



SIR PRATAP'S HOUSE.

ordered the house, superintended the cooking and servants, and kept all the accounts of the establishment most carefully. During the great famine she had a large camp of grass huts erected some miles out of the city, to which she had women and children brought in, cows and grain were collected, and the daily distribution of milk and grain was made under her personal supervision. She lived out there herself in a grass hut like the rest, rose long before sunrise, did all the work necessary for the day in the camp, then drove to her own house, superintended it, and saw to the welfare of her husband and the household generally, after which she returned to camp.

She kept the accounts of the entire camp, that there might be no extravagance or pilfering, saw every pint of milk, every chapati, each dose of medicine and rag of clothing distributed, and this with a Jodhpur summer sun blazing on the glaring sand. A task which many a strong man would have shunned—and she was no longer young.

As a young woman she had had a good deal of liberty, but though sharing all her husband's views, she had no wish to mix with the world at large, and was particular in her choice of friends.

When Maharaja of Idar, Sir Pratap did a very unusual thing. He had as guests an officer and his wife, to whom he and Lady Pratap were very attached. The first evening of the visit the lady and the hostess met and talked in the drawing-room. As the time for dinner approached the lady rose to make her adieux, saying, "Shall I see you to-morrow?" "I am dining with you to-night," was the astonishing rejoinder.

It was a fact. The Maharani, one of Maharaj Daulat Singh's Ranis, and two little girls dined with the guests, the officer giving his arm to Lady Pratap and Sir Pratap to his guest's wife. The ladies had all been made to dine in the dining-room for a month before the expected visit, that they might become

accustomed to the use of knives and forks, and to European food

One of the other zenana ladies had a touch of fever, and was unable to be present. On the guest asking if any pressure had been brought to bear on the ladies to make them appear, he was assured that nothing of the kind had taken place, and that the absent Maharani was bitterly disappointed at missing the feast, not only that, but she had sent down to the station the next day to find out whether any less intimate guests were arriving, who would prevent the ladies from appearing again. To their joy the strange Sahibs did not come, and all the "family" once more assembled at dinner.

This time the khitmatgars were admitted to wait, as the previous evening, when served by the zenana servants, the meal had been prolonged to a somewhat wearisome extent. The officer's wife asked Sir Pratap if he desired this occasion kept private, or if it might be mentioned. "Certainly. There is no reason why our ladies should not mingle with both sexes, either European or of their own nationality. If it were not made so difficult for our ladies to keep to their own class, and not be expected to associate with people of lower social standing than their own, I should long ago have introduced my wife to the good society for which she is so well fitted."

It is, indeed, to be regretted that there were no children of this marriage to inherit the virtues of such great hearted and large-minded parents.

Sir Pratap was the very soul of hospitality, and his manners to ladies were the perfection of knightly grace ("Lady Sahib" was his mode of address), he saw to it, too, that all his entourage were imbued with the same ideas, with the result that the Jodhpur Sardars of to-day are justly famed for the perfection of their manners. He was at the same time very decided as to the people he cared to converse with,

and could be brusque to the verge of cruelty on occasion.

Once at a banquet he had next him a lady visiting Jodhpur, who was so much impressed by the honour of being taken in to dinner by him; that she had been worrying people all day to tell her suitable topics for conversation. Sir Pratap was not favourably impressed when they were introduced, and when, after a silence lasting through the *hors d'œuvre*, the lady, with the advent of the soup, launched at him the question, "You are very fond of pig-sticking, aren't you, Your Highness?" he replied with perfect gravity, "I thinking very cruel sport, lady," and winked mightily at the Resident across the table; the conversation then languished.

Again, at a large reception in Calcutta at Government House, a lady to whom he was talking said, "Sir Pratap, I want to introduce you to that lady over there." Sir Pratap gave one glance, shook his head, and said, "No thank you, lady; I not want. I thinking not very gentlemanly lady."

Perfectly conscious of his world-wide reputation, he was very modest about it. During the war one day a gentleman saw a sturdy figure in a khaki great-coat standing near Buckingham Palace. Thinking it might be someone wanting direction or help, he went up to him, and after a few words inquired his name. "Pratap Singh." "What, *the* Pratap Singh?" "Yes, I *the* Pratap Singh," he said quite simply, but with quiet assurance.

One of the greatest charms of daily intercourse with him was the wonderful simplicity of the man. It permeated his talk as well as his daily life, so that it was often hard to realize that this could be *the* Pratap Singh.

Sir Pratap's own share in the work of the Regency Council was not so pronounced as it would have been had not the Great War claimed him from its outbreak until the close of the Regency.

One of his earliest projects was to revive the two schools, the Powlett and the Elgin, for the founding of which he had been responsible, and which in his absence had practically collapsed. He was always keenly anxious to create a desire for education among the Rajputs of Marwar, and so to fit them for posts in state service. He decided to launch out on a much larger scale than heretofore, in which aim he had the hearty and active support of the Resident, Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Windham, C.I.E. It was decided to procure the services of a European as Principal and to build extensive and up-to-date premises for a boarding school. It was to fill this post that I came to Jodhpur, where I found some seventy boys housed in syces' quarters, with coach-houses as classrooms, boys of sixteen to twenty years played cricket with the kind of stumps, etc., which are bought in a toy-shop on a piece of cardboard, and one boy bowled all the time, for "no other knows how, Sahib." Discipline there was none, save when Sir Pratap paid a surprise visit, as befell on one occasion before my arrival. History, whether strictly accurate I will not vouch, has it that a worthy Brahmin had told the boys it was a bad thing to eat meat, and they had given it up accordingly. Sir Pratap heard of this, and, having little love for the ways of Brahmins, he rode to the school, lined up the boys, and inquired who did not eat meat, the luckless boys, believing themselves to be doing a meritorious act, proudly responded unanimously, whereupon Sir Pratap thrashed the lot, and departed with the remark, "Now I thinking you eating meat."

The wisdom of his policy has been fully borne out by results. At once over 400 boys came clamouring for admission, and although the spacious and handsome buildings, erected at a cost of over five lakhs, will house about 370, they have not only been full ever since, but annually at least 150 boys



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SIR PRATAP IN LL.D. (CAMBRIDGE) ROBES.
At Jodhpur, February, 1914, when Lord Hardinge opened the Rajput Schools
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are refused admission owing to lack of accommodation; a steady and increasing flow of these Rajput boys have gone into one or other of the state departments, and a healthy desire for education has been created, which should bear increased fruit in the future.

The main building of the school was approved of on a chance visit by Sir Edwin Lutyens, who pronounced it as "very unlike many similar institutions at home, which are all Queen Anne in front and Mary Ann behind."

Sir Pratap gave expression to his Spartan views of training by insisting that stone beds should be provided for the boys, and nothing would move him from this resolve. "Making boy hard, Sahib," was all he would vouchsafe to argument.

The opening by Lord Hardinge on February 5, 1914, was a day not without incident. Sir Pratap had, with some difficulty, been prevailed on to wear his Cambridge LL.D. robes. He arrived straight from a shoot in an old Norfolk jacket and older Jodhpurs; he was helped into his robes, and, when I turned from putting on my own gown, he appeared in full glory with the two long pink streamers tied in an enormous bow under his chin. Then, during the ceremony, we on the platform found that the P.W.D., in an excess of zeal, had revarnished the platform that morning, with adhesive results. And to crown all, a picturesque old gentleman, while reciting a Persian ode, cleared his throat vigorously, dislodging the top row of his false teeth, so that he was compelled to use the framed ode as a screen behind which he repaired the damage. Sir Pratap, having once donned his robes, took to them so kindly that he motored the five miles back to the Residency and insisted on being photographed in them.

The Finance Department was thoroughly overhauled, and under the control of Major S. B. A. Patter-

son (now A G G in Rajputana) the assets rose during the four years' Regency from Rs 2,82,48,938/- to Rs 4,25,50,214/8/3, while the reserve fund increased from Rs 65,12,531/6/- to Rs 1,94,13,189/-, and the state had cleared off all liabilities

These figures are a striking testimony to the excellent work of Major Patterson, who was deservedly one of the most popular and respected officers to serve in Jodhpur. He had no easy task, for Sir Pratap had a light-hearted way of proposing schemes which would have involved an expenditure out of all proportion to the returns, and which only a tactful and firm hand could keep in check.

Sir Pratap was once going to Bombay for a couple of days to buy hunting dogs. He took with him ten thousand rupees in silver, though he could have drawn what he needed from Jodhpur funds in Bombay, and on his return, being asked to furnish an account for official purposes, he ultimately did so. It ran

"Spent in Bombay, Rs 10,000

"PRATAP SINGH"

On one of these brief visits to Bombay he was staying at Government House. A fellow-guest and chief was always faultlessly dressed, Sir Pratap, as usual, was not. One evening just before dinner Sir Pratap eyed him for some time, limped round him as if to view the effect from every side, and finally, with a sly smile, remarked loudly, "Masher."

Apropos of clothes, one of Sir Pratap's cherished possessions at this time was a blue suit resembling overalls, which he wore when giving dinner in camp to Lord Hardinge, who was on his way from Bikaner. "How you liking my new suit, one rupee in bazar?" was Sir Pratap's greeting to the distinguished guest.

Another time a nurse, who had been in the Fort for some days with one of the Ranis who was ill, was ready to depart, and, getting rather anxious about her train,

was looking out of the window, when she suddenly called out, " Oh, it's all right; here comes the man for the luggage." It was Sir Pratap !

Sir Pratap saw to it that law and order should be properly maintained, and during his Regency both the judicial system and the Police Department were thoroughly reorganized, despite strenuous opposition on many points from the strong conservative element in the state.

Under Mr. A. D. Barr as Chief Judge, the Chief Court was constituted; penal, civil, and criminal codes were drawn up, and many useful Acts passed. The civil and criminal powers of the Thikanas were revised and clearly defined; the work was heavy, but it was well and successfully done.

Mr. Barr at one time lived in a house which it was impossible to keep free from the blue pigeons which abound in Jodhpur, and of which local religious feeling forbids the destruction. They played such havoc in the house that at length Mr. Barr asked Sir Pratap if shooting some of them would be considered a heinous crime. " Well, Sahib," was the reply given with a twinkling eye, " I thinking shooting pigeon very bad religion, lekin (but) making very good pie."

Mr. G. A. Cocks, who has since recently been appointed Inspector-General of Police in the Punjab, left the Marwar Police vastly different from the force which he took over, and since then it has never looked back.

Maharaj Fatteh Singh, the Military Member, had an unduly heavy burden on his shoulders, owing to the whole-hearted way in which Sir Pratap and his state entered into the war. His valuable work was later deservedly rewarded by the C.S.I.

The Public Works Member, Thakur Mangal Singh of Pokaran, was responsible for a large number of important works of public utility, of which the Sum-mair Samand irrigation scheme, the Rajput schools

at Chopasni, the installation of an up-to-date electric light and power station call for special mention. The C.I.E. has since been conferred on him as a mark of appreciation of his services.

The Revenue Member, Pandit Shyam Bihari Misra, and Maharaj Zalim Singh, Sir Pratap's only surviving brother, the Vice-President, completed the Council.

It must be remembered that Sir Pratap was no mere titular Regent, content to leave the active work to the other members of his council. There was not one single reform or innovation, not the most trivial piece of routine work which escaped his notice, and which was not discussed and weighed by him before being accepted or rejected. Not one member of council or departmental officer but was indebted to Sir Pratap's ripe experience.

In summing up the results of the Regency administration we are rather anticipating matters, for the minority did not terminate until 1916, but, as has been said before, Sir Pratap's absence in France from September, 1914, except for a few weeks, prohibited him from taking any really active part in the guidance of the state after that date, and his services during the war demand a continuous record unbroken by a brief chronicle of lesser things.

CHAPTER XVII

RELIGIOUS VIEWS

It is interesting to read Sir Pratap's views on religion, which he gives in some detail :

" These are my personal opinions, for which I alone am responsible.

" From the very beginning it has been a habit of mine to sift carefully matters pertaining to religion. In early life I spent a good deal of my time in Puja Path¹ in the orthodox style. I also used to hear readings from the Ramayana, the Gita, and the Bhagawat.² But none of these brought comfort to my soul, for with the exception of stories and fables there was very little in them. Further, the facts of history show that the worship of images and the Puranas³ have come into vogue among the Hindus since a comparatively short time—that is, since those days which may rightly be called the Dark Age. In that period the Hindus had given up the study of their true religious scriptures—namely, the Vedas and other genuine Shastras—and, falling into ignorance, introduced into their ancient and pure religion many fanciful ideas and mischievous customs. The result has been that the Hindu faith is now looked upon as a collection of grotesque fancies and a bundle of superstitions, and its worthlessness is a subject of ridicule.

¹ Puja is worship, and Path is the recitation of verses from the sacred books.

² Three of the most revered and universally accepted religious books of the Hindus.

³ Semi-historical and semi-mythological records embodying religious teachings.

" But, purified of these later accretions, our true religion, which is taught in the Vedas alone, does not fail to command the approbation of the thoughtful. Philosophers and scholars of the West have, after considerable study and researches, borne testimony to the fact that the ancient religious books of the Hindus—*e.g.*, the Vedas, the Upamishads, etc.—contain wisdom of the best kind, and are worthy of the respect of all. As a matter of fact, the present state of Hindu religion is such that an educated man cannot believe in its greatness or accept its authority. For a long time, however, I kept my faith centred in this religion, but ultimately it appeared to me a thing worthy only of being abandoned. On making a careful examination, it would appear that the corrupters of this religion were the later-day Brahmuns.

" Under the cloak of piety these went on grafting into the Shastras fresh and fresh passages fabricated by themselves, so as to serve their self interest, and give currency to shoals of evil customs. And thus the ancient faith is now in such a condition that many portions of it must be cast away. Leaving it, I next examined the scriptures of the religions of Islam, and even learnt by heart several passages of the Kuran. Moreover, I kept company with staunch Mahomedans, in order that their practical life might have some influence on me, but their cult also failed to satisfy me.

" Proceeding still further, I opened the Bible also. To be sure, its stories and fables attracted my fancy, but neither on my head nor on my heart did it produce such effect that I could accept it as the word of God. And then Jesus, being the Son begotten of God, and being born of the Virgin, were things I could never understand.

" In short, none of the religions that I studied satisfied me. To my mind religion has to do with the soul, and very little with the body. But the gener-

ality of cults have rested the foundations of faith upon things external and matters of form, and have also recommended the same class of things as a means for the attainment of good and evil. But real religiousness lies in right principles, upright character, and pure soul.

“When my mind was agitated with these doubts and uncertainties, I had once to be tied to my bed for two months at Jeypore on account of a broken leg. It was at that time that I felt a desire to hear the Vedas and find out what was in them. And accordingly, both as a means of whiling away time as well as in the hope of removing this struggle from my heart, I began to have passages from the Vedas read and explained to me, and also ponder over them carefully. I cannot claim to have read all the Vedas or to have become in any way versed in them, but they certainly produced a very wholesome effect upon my troubled heart, and so ultimately I came to the conclusion that in the oldest of the old and revered books of the Aryas, the Vedas, there is contained the real truth about religion in complete form. In all other religious scriptures, good and bad, truth and fiction are mixed up in confusion.

“A very short time after this, when I was at Jodhpur, Swami Dayananda Saraswati came there and intimated his desire to see me. I also was anxious to see him, as I had heard great praise of him, and so I went to meet him with my elder brother, Maharaja Jaswant Singh. After only a short conversation we became convinced of his greatness. In appearance he was without doubt like the Rishis¹ of old, and his voice was like the roar of the lion. The fire of Brahmacharya² gleamed from his eyes. All the world has

¹ Rishis were ancient Hindu sages or seers who kept themselves perfectly detached from the world.

² The vow of total abstinence from sexual enjoyment or even sensual thought.

now heard of his great name and his vast learning. To my mind it was a fortunate thing for India that Swami Dayananda came to awaken her from her slumber of lethargy. He was her greatest and truest well-wisher, one who worked all his life only for her

" I entertain the greatest respect for him; in fact, regard him as my Guru,¹ for he taught me very many good things. Later on he founded a society by the name of Arya Samaj. I joined it, and also established a Samaj at Jodhpur. It is my belief that this society will serve as a powerful means for the advancement of India. The work done and reforms achieved by it in the course of a very short time give hope that it will have the largest share in raising India from her present degradation.

" The teachings of Swami Dayananda proved highly beneficial to both of us brothers. Maharaja Jaswant Singh was under the impression that perhaps the Swami dissuaded all from the eating of meat, and so, going to him one day, he said, ' Swamiji, we are Kshatriyas, and from ancient times hunting and meat-eating have come down as habits of our race, so that to give up these would be extremely difficult for us, and without abandoning these we cannot join the Arya Samaj '.

" But the Swami relieved his mind by saying that the Rajas and Kshatriyas may not give them up. Of course, no such attachment should be formed for them as to make a Raja spend his whole time in them, to the neglect of his duties of the state. These words of his I have heard with my own ears, and it is my belief that the Swamiji's view was perfectly correct. In the history of the world there is not a single instance to show that any vegetarian community ever became brave or warlike. The legends of Aryavarta, such as the pursuit of the deer by Raja Ram Chandra, and others, prove that from ancient times the practice of

¹ Religious guide or preceptor

hunting and eating flesh has prevailed among the Kshatriyas. My personal belief is that all Aryas were used to taking meat, which appears to be borne out by the fact that up to this day several sects of Brahmins and Baniyas¹ are given to flesh diet. Only a limited number of men abstained from meat in ancient times; those followed the practice of Yoga.² Excepting these the people at large, as a rule, took animal food.

“ Later on the doctrines of the Jain cult induced us to give up the habits of meat-eating, the result of which has been that we have become a weak, spiritless, and timid people, and, such a brave and warlike race as the Aryas of Aryavarta having disappeared, we their descendants have passed into a byword for such things; and so in the first edition of the Swami's Satyārtha Prakash he said nothing forbidding meat. Subsequently, however, Pandit Bhim Sen put in a number of things at his own instance. At any rate, this is sure that the Swamiji was not so very hostile to meat-eating. In the present condition of India he could not be its positive supporter, but neither was he much opposed to it. In later days a very great controversy arose upon this point in the Arya Samaj, but in my opinion it is not such a very important question as to be made a ground for quarrel. The Swamiji himself appointed the Maharana of Oodeypore as President of his Paropakarini Sabha, and enlisted Maharaja Jaswant Singh and myself as members of the Arya Samaj. He knew very well that we were given to meat-eating.

“ The work which was begun by Swamiji has since his death been taken up (at least, the teaching and preaching part of it) by Lala Hans Raj, B.A., Principal

¹ Bania belong to the Vaishya division of the four primitive Hindu castes.

² A series of processes, physical, mental, and spiritual, followed for attaining union of the soul with the Deity, or eternal beatitude.

of the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic College of Lahore, and all know very well in what manner he has been carrying it on till now

"Twenty years ago a college was started at Lahore to commemorate the Swamiji's name, the foundation stone of whose buildings I had the honour of laying in April, 1905. For nearly twenty years Lala Hans Raj has been working for this college without taking any remuneration, and it is known that he has consecrated his life to its service. It is a happy thing that numbers of his pupils have also become ready to follow his good example. I first saw the college on my way back from Tirah, and again inspected it carefully in 1905 on the occasion of laying the foundation stone. It is, in my opinion, a remarkable institution in India for the educational advancement of Hindus, and much good may be expected of it."

It was in 1916 that Sir Pratap gave expression to these views, and it will occasion no surprise that he should have sought diligently with an open mind for the form of religion which should bring peace to his soul. His devotion to the Arya Samaj is a very striking instance of his unswerving loyalty to those he had once taken into friendship. The political activities in which some members of the society indulged were utterly antipathetic to him, and he would have been the very last to countenance them in any way, but at the same time he would on no account sever his relations with the society with whose religious side he was wholly in sympathy.

Sir Pratap once, travelling to Jaipur with his great friend, Major-General Sir Harry Watson, was explaining to him all about the Rathores and their blue blood. He pointed out that they were of such high caste that nothing could be beneath them to do, nor could anything damage their caste. By way of demonstration, he quickly bent down and undid the laces of his friend's boots.

A more striking demonstration still was to be given very soon afterwards by Sir Pratap.

In the little cemetery at Jodhpur stands a large marble cross in memory of Lieutenant James Dalmahoy Cadell, Central India Horse, a young soldier who died of typhoid on January 12, 1897. The story of how Sir Pratap, true to himself, placed brotherhood before caste was written by the father, Colonel T. Cadell, V.C., for *The Times*, and appeared again recently in John Buchan's *Life of Lord Minto*, but it is so beautifully told by Sir Henry Newbolt in his "Ballad of Sir Pertab Singh ; or, A Soldier's Faith," that I cannot refrain from quoting it in full:

In the first year of him that first
Was Emperor and King,
A rider came to the Rose-red House,
The House of Pertab Singh.

Young he was and an Englishman,
And a soldier, hilt and heel,
And he struck fire in Pertab's heart
As the steel strikes on steel.

Beneath the morning stars they rode,
Beneath the evening sun,
And their blood sang to them as they rode
That all good wars are one.

They told their tales of the love of women,
Their tales of East and West,
But their blood sang that of all their loves
They loved a soldier best.

So ran their joy the allotted days,
Till at the last day's end
The shadow stilled the Rose-red House
And the heart of Pertab's friend.

When morning came, in narrow chest
The soldier's face they hid,
And over his fast-dreaming eyes
Shut down the narrow lid.

Three were there of his race and creed,
 Three only, and no more
 They could not find to bear the dead
 A fourth in all Jodhpore.

"O Maharaj, of your good grace
 Send us a Sweeper here
 A Sweeper has no caste to lose
 Even by an alien bier "

"What need, what need ?" said Pertab Singh,
 And bowed his princely head.
 "I have no caste, for I myself
 Am bearing forth the dead "

"O Maharaj, O passionate heart,
 Be wise, bethink you yet
 That which you lose to-day is lost
 Till the last sun shall set."

"God only knows," said Pertab Singh,
 "That which I lose to-day.
 And without me no hand of man
 Shall bear my friend away "

Stately and slow and shoulder-high,
 In the sight of all Jodhpore,
 The dead went down the rose-red steps
 Upheld by bearers four

When dawn relit the lamp of grief
 Within the burning East,
 There came a word to Pertab Singh,
 The soft word of a priest.

He woke, and even as he woke
 He went forth all in white,
 And saw the Brahmins bowing there
 In the hard morning light.

"Alas, O Maharaj, alas !
 O noble Pertab Singh !
 For here in Jodhpore yesterday
 Befell a fearful thing

"Oh here in Jodhpore yesterday
 A fearful thing befell."

"A fearful thing," said Pertab Singh,
 "God and my heart know well—

" I lost a friend."

" More fearful yet !

When down these steps you past
In sight of all Jodhpore you lost—
O Maharaj !—your caste."

Then leapt the light in Pertab's eyes
As the flame leaps in smoke.

" Thou priest ! thy soul hath never known
The word thy lips have spoke.

" My caste I know thou there is a caste
Above my caste or thine;
Brahmin and Rajput are but dust
To that immortal line:

" Wide as the world, free as the air,
Pure as the pool of death—
The caste of all Earth's noble hearts
Is the right soldier's faith."

HENRY NEWBOLT.

Noblesse oblige !

CHAPTER XVIII

THE GREAT WAR

ON an afternoon in early August, 1914, I arrived at the polo-ground to find Sir Pratap surrounded by a little knot of excited friends. Every fresh arrival he greeted as soon as he was within shouting distance, waving his arm and crying, "Hurray, Sahib, hurray! I going knocking over one German; dying for my King-Emperor!" It was his great hope, and though it was to be unfulfilled, the example he set in the war will live.

His telegram to His Majesty on the outbreak of war is typical of his loyalty:

"To His Majesty the King-Emperor, London.

"Ever looking to Your Majesty as my second God, I, as Your Majesty's A.D.C., consider it my sacred duty to serve Your Majesty personally at this time. I will deem it a special mark of royal favour and a great honour if allowed to serve on Your Majesty's staff. Your Majesty's old Rajput soldier will therefore eagerly await royal commands to be present at your gracious feet.

"(Signed) MAHARAJA PRATAP SINGH."

He lost no time in placing the Jodhpur Lancers (Sardar Rissala) and the entire resources of the state at the disposal of the King-Emperor, and then rushed off to Simla, where he begged Sir Harry Watson, then Inspector-General of the Imperial Service troops, to



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SIR PRATAP AND LORD HARDINGE AT THE MARCH PAST OF THE JODHPUR LANCERS, 1914

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use all his influence with the Viceroy to further his request to be sent to France.

He told Sir Harry that he wanted to lead his regiment in a charge, and to die at the head of his men. On being told that there would be no opportunity for a charge in France, he replied: "Main mankha banaienge" (I will make an opportunity).

Sir Pratap voices his desire to serve his King-Emperor in a big war "such as would satisfy my craving. Thank God! I got that opportunity; as the proverb says: 'Shakar khore ko khuda Shakarhi deta Hai' (Who sweets love to them sweets God gives).

"In the modern civilized times wars and strifes, being painful and horrifying, are looked upon as uncivilized and detestable, but to us Kshatriyas such chances of upholding our Dharam are rare, and so naturally, on the commencement of this Great War, my innate feeling of serving my King and country was roused. Religiously, for a Rajput, war is an open door to heaven."

He was not long inactive. On August 29, 1914, the Jodhpur Lancers started on their way, and Sir Pratap, after handing over the cares of the administration to Colonel Windham, the Resident, followed them on September 14.

He was filled with pride at the martial spirit shown by the young Maharaja Summair Singh, who wrote a private letter to Lord Hardinge begging permission to go to the war, and finally was allowed to go on his great-uncle's staff.

Sir Pratap and part of his regiment sailed from Bombay on the *City of Birmingham* on September 16, the rest of the Rissala on another ship forming part of the same convoy which was proceeding to France under escort.

Before leaving Bombay Sir Pratap took the precaution of wiring to the King a request that the Jodhpur

Lancers should be sent to France, and not to any lesser theatre of war. The Lancers were destined for Egypt and the protection of the Suez Canal, but Sir Pratap refused to disembark at Suez, and soon after their arrival, orders to proceed to Marseilles arrived, which place was reached on October 12.

Three French interpreters were at first attached to the regiment, but the number was afterwards reduced to one—M. de Hamel. The British officers with the regiment were Colonel H. N. Holden, Major A. D. Strong, and Captain E. L. Maxwell (a brother of the gallant and popular Colonel Frank Maxwell, V.C., D.S.O.). Poor Hyla Holden came through the war unscathed until the very last engagement of the Lancers, when he was killed at Aleppo, to the great grief of all who knew him.

From Marseilles the Lancers sailed to Orleans on October 24, where they received their equipment. Thence on November 2 they sailed to Merville, and marched to a bivouac about four miles behind the firing line. Just as they had detrained, orders came to march at once, so they rode throughout the night to their destination.

Let Sir Pratap take up the narrative.

"Though we were just in the rear of the fighting line, the sounds of guns and volleys of musketry were so tremendous that sometimes we were unable to hear each other. We had orders to be always ready, and had therefore to keep our men armed and the horses always saddled. Working parties used to be sent forward to dig trenches.

"At La Croix several important inspections were carried out. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught, and Lieutenant-General Sir James Willcocks all inspected the regiment, and on December 1 fifty men were taken out of the trenches and inspected by His Majesty the King-Emperor.



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SIR PRATAP AND LORD HARDINGE AFTER REVIEWING THE JODHPUR LANCERS, 1914.

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"His Highness Jodhpur Darbar was given a nice place to live in at St. Omer, the headquarters of General French, to whose staff His Highness was now attached. We used to visit each other now and then."

The Maharaja and Sir Pratap were once moving to other quarters by car, which the Maharaja was driving. Sir Pratap, surrounded by mountains of kit, was in the tonneau; the roads were very bad, and the Maharaja was possessed by a spirit of mischief. He soon heard sounds indicating that Sir Pratap was in difficulties, but kept his attention rigidly fixed on the road ahead. On reaching their destination, the Maharaja jumped out quickly and appeared to be busied in the bonnet of the car, under cover of which in reality he was laughing gleefully. At last he allowed himself to be conscious of the cry coming from the tonneau. "Darbar, Darbar! I little sticking," and the Darbar with a perfectly grave face turned to find Sir Pratap helpless and overwhelmed by the masses of baggage which had descended on him.

Sir Pratap resumes:

"On November 30, 1914, the whole regiment went into trenches in front of Festubert for the first time. Only two men were wounded, although the lines were so close together that the Germans were able to throw bombs and hand-grenades across. Our troops had no bombs at that period.

"H.H. the Jodhpur Darbar and myself had the honour of being invited by H.M. the King-Emperor to see the King of Belgium, the President of the French Republic (Poincaré), the Minister for War (Viviani), and Marshal Joffre at Merville, where we had lunch. In introducing the Jodhpur Darbar to the King of Belgium, His Majesty remarked that the young Maharaja was ruler of an Indian state bigger than Belgium in extent.

"I cannot pass on to other events without recording

with great sorrow the death of my old friend, Field-Marshal Earl Roberts, who had come over to greet the Indian Army and arouse them to their sense of duty at that critical time. He was very pleased to see the Sardar Rissala on parade. He saw nearly all the units of the Indian Army and exhorted them to action. Unluckily, a day or two after he got ill and died of pneumonia, to the great dismay and sorrow of the whole Indian contingent.

"The Indians loved him, not because he was at one time Commander-in-Chief of the Indian forces, but because he was born and brought up in India, and spent nearly the whole of his life amongst the people of India. I was shocked to hear of his demise. Next day, when his mortal remains were being taken to the seashore for embarkation to England, the question arose as to who should sit with the corpse on the motor-lorry. It was suggested that one of his Indian friends should be given a seat, and this honour was given to me, which I gladly accepted. I was seated beside the chauffeur, and the corpse of the greatest of my old friends was brought to the ship, where it was taken up on board and brought to England for interment.

"The funeral was arranged on a grand scale befitting a great soldier. The King and all the dignitaries of the state, the Indian princes and officers attended."

The day following the funeral Sir Pratap went to pay his respects to the King, who reminded him of an old incident in India when he was Prince of Wales and Sir Pratap was on his staff. They had been pig-sticking at Bikaner, and Sir Pratap, noting that a very good horse had been given to a German officer who happened to be there, said, "It were better if he were given a horse that would have tumbled with him into some pit." The Prince expressed surprise at such sentiments, and Sir Pratap went on: "I consider these men as the greatest enemies of the British Empire, and as such deserve this kind of treatment."

The King recalled this now, and remarked on the correctness of Sir Pratap's forecast.

On December 21 a party of 200 of the Lancers, under Colonel Thakur Pratap Singh, C.B.E., with Major Strong, took part in a dismounted attack by the Secunderabad Brigade near Festubert. The Lancers lost three killed and eight wounded, as well as Major Strong, who was wounded in the leg.

At Christmas Sir Pratap wrote a characteristic letter saying that their Majesties were his parents, and that all the other children at the front were receiving comforts, and he hoped that the King and Queen would send him some ginger, peppermint, and brandy, which were in due course dispatched and presented to him, to his great delight, by the Prince of Wales in person.

Sir Pratap's own favourite Christmas gifts to the Royal Family were the large, wide-skirted, padded coats, or dressing-gowns, called in Jodhpur "phulgars." He used to send a number of them to Colonel Clive Wigram for distribution, and nearly every member of the Royal Family, from the King and Queen downwards, must have at least one or two of these garments!

At this time an Indian cavalry corps was formed under the command of General Remington, and the Jodhpur Lancers, the only Imperial Service troops left in France, were withdrawn from the Secunderabad Brigade to join the new corps.

They were billeted in the village of Witternesse for the rest of the winter. The ground was too sodden and deep in mud to permit of any mounted work, but route marches were carried out on the roads to keep men and horses fit, while the men were drilled on foot and taught to use bayonets.

Sir Pratap continues:

"Some trouble arose with the men of the Poona Horse, who refused to eat tinned meat having a bull's head as trade mark. The authorities know the

religious sentiments of Hindus on the question, and they always took care not to hurt Indian feeling on this score in any way. The tins really did not contain beef. I was called to satisfy their religious scruples. The men said they will eat it if I first partook of it in their presence, and this I presently did. They were satisfied, and no further trouble arose. Since then I was asked by the authorities now and then to go round to Indian regiments to lecture them on general topics and to keep up their spirits, and I used to do this in company with other British officers. A lot of Indian officers and Sepoys were very much attached to me, and they often used to come and see me, and I always exhorted them to keep up the name of India, which they actually did in that adverse climate.

"The French people were very kind and amicable towards the Indians from start to finish, and they felt very much when we left them. Though poor, they are a highly civilized and patriotic people. One old woman told me she had five sons, of whom four were already killed at Verdun, and she did not mind if the fifth were also killed in driving the Boches from French soil.

"General Remington, Sir James Willcocks, and Sir Douglas Haig were my old friends, and we often used to see each other.

"In January, 1915, the regiment was inspected by General Remington, and afterwards by Field-Marshal Sir John French, the Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in France. Again in February, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and the Corps Commander inspected the regiment and expressed themselves very pleased.

"Whenever I met the Generals, I used to ask them when the cavalry charge will take place, and they always said it will come about soon, but it never came about as I wished.

"In May H.H. the Maharaja Summar Singhji left

for Jodhpur, and the Maharaja Sahib of Ratlam joined my staff in his place.

"The French Government, in order to give honour to the Indian forces, asked for a procession of Indian troops to pass through Paris, and detachments from all units were selected to take part in the procession. I was placed at the head of this procession, and after its termination shook hands with President Poincaré, who received me very cordially and took me in to the lunch, to which many French Generals and Lord Derby were also invited.

"In June the regiment had the honour of supplying a guard of honour to the King and Queen of the Belgians, who attended the march past and sports given by the Indian cavalry corps, and on July 8 250 N.C.O.'s and men of the Rissala who were not working in the trenches took part, under the command of Maharaj Sher Singh, in the cavalry corps concentration at the Linghen rifle-range for inspection by Lord Kitchener, who complimented me on the good condition of men and horses."

Sir Pratap remained in France till early in 1918 (with the exception of a few weeks at the end of 1915, when he was compelled to pay a flying visit to India in connection with the marriage of Maharaja Summair Singh), most of the time sharing the troubles and hardships of his men until the Indian troops were withdrawn from France.

He went through the battle of Cambrai with his men, and speaks of it as if such was an everyday occurrence for a man of seventy-two! "On November 20, 1917, at daybreak General Byng launched his famous attack, which was preceded by a host of tanks.

"The advanced trenches were taken and part of the Hindenburg line captured, but his last support line, protected by a canal over which the tanks could not cross, held out, and the advance was stopped.

It was now that the cavalry divisions were brought up along the prepared track. I was also present in this advance, but unluckily our progress was prevented by the canal in front. I bivouacked with the men for the night near the Hindenburg line. The horses were kept ready saddled.

"Next day the Germans still held out, and the cavalry divisions were withdrawn slightly. Fighting continued for several days with varying success, but the cavalry were unable to get through, so they were dispersed and the Jodhpur Lancers returned to their camp.

"They had hardly arrived there, however, when the Germans launched a counter attack, and all the cavalry regiments were hurried forward to meet it. We were in action from daybreak till nightfall on December 1, and suffered twenty-eight casualties: four killed, twenty three wounded, and one missing.

"I was made G.C.B. this month, and in the next month it was decided by the authorities to evacuate the Indian cavalry from France.

"On the eve of their departure the Jodhpur Lancers had the honour of receiving the thanks of His Majesty the King-Emperor for their services in France.

"A flag and shield were prepared on behalf of the women of England for presentation to the Indian Army in recognition of their services to the Empire, and they were to be given away by the hand of the Dowager Empress Queen Alexandra. The honour of receiving the flag and the shield on behalf of the Indian Army was conferred on me.

"These relics were afterwards, on the conclusion of the war, sent to India, when I was invited by H.E. Lord Chelmsford to Delhi, and they were placed in Viceregal Lodge by my hands with great ceremony befitting the occasion.

"Nearly all the British Generals were very kind to me throughout in France. I was introduced to



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SIR PRAIAP WITH SIR DOUGLAS HAIG AND GENERAL JOFFRE:
MONTREUIL, JUNE 17, 1916.

To face p. 208.

General Joffre, the great French Generalissimo, by General Haig. He was a brave man, but could not run about like Haig.

"I often used to go to General Haig, whom I always found busy writing and consulting maps. His friendship with me dated from the time he was a Captain in the 7th Hussars. I always inquired from him as to when we shall be given a chance of charging the Germans, and one day he told me frankly that the time has not yet arrived for a charge, and that we should not hurry. Whoever of the two belligerents will make undue haste will suffer defeat. But when the time comes we will give the Jodhpur men a chance. His remarks proved to be quite true.

"Notwithstanding his multifarious duties and high responsibilities, the General never gave up his personal exercises in order to keep him fit. One day before six o'clock in the morning I went to General Haig's headquarters for some work, and found that he was already out of bed and was in the upper part of the house. I sat down on a couch where his A.D.C. used to wait. His servant, perhaps, informed him of my presence, and he called out that, if I permitted, he can come down in his sleeping suit, otherwise I shall have to wait a few minutes. He came down in a few minutes after changing his clothes. I requested him to get me a pass for the importation of some of my horses from England into France, as without it the French customs officials would not allow them to land.

"He told me to wait for five minutes more, and in this short time he ran hard five or six times round his house, and then came back to me perspiring and asked to be allowed to have a bath. After the bath he called me for chota hazri, which we took together, and then we both went out for a ride.

"On returning I found that complete arrangements about the importation of horses were already made. The moral of this is that, on the one hand, he did not

allow the work to suffer, and, on the other, he fully attended to the needs of his body.

"I could not understand when and how he issued the necessary orders about my horses.

"Sometimes he used to ride for miles inspecting regiments and seeing that all orders were being properly carried out as he wanted.

"I consider Haig to be the best of British Generals, and it was due to his untiring exertions that the war came to a successful end.

"General French was also a very experienced and intelligent General, but he could only stay for a short time, as he was called to London to attend to some equally important duties.

"The Jodhpur Lancers reached Egypt on March 28, and myself with staff on April 18, 1918.

"Before leaving France the French Republic conferred on me the Order of the Legion of Honour, which I gratefully accepted.

"We were now under the orders of the Commander-in-Chief Egyptian Expeditionary Force, General Sir Edmund Allenby. The regiment reached Tel-el-Kebir on March 29. Several officers and men were immediately sent to the Imperial School of Instruction at Zaitoun, near Cairo, to undergo a general course, and to be made conversant with the points especially peculiar to the campaign in Palestine."

At the time of Sir Pratap's arrival at Cairo, Major-General Sir Harry Watson was in command there, and he endeavoured to get a good house, as his own was full, for his old friend close to the Gezireh race-course; for Sir Pratap had brought with him twelve young thoroughbreds from Newmarket, which he hoped would be useful for racing in India. These were installed in Sir Harry's stables.

Sir Pratap would not have the house which had been provided for him, and said that he wanted quarters in the stables, where he could be with his

horses. Sir Harry remonstrated, and said it was not fitting that a Maharaja like himself should live in the stables, but Sir Pratap proved adamant for the time being.

One morning soon afterwards Sir Harry went down to the stables to look at his own horses. The corporal who was in charge of them said with a smile, "The Maharaja came down to the stables last night and slept in the saddle-room, but the mosquitoes were too much for him."

The Jodhpur Lancers were now posted to the Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade, where Sir Pratap joined them after a brief sojourn at Lord Allenby's headquarter camp at Ramleh. Sir Pratap arrived at Brigadier-General Harbord's headquarters at Deiran, and G.H.Q. ordered five E.P. tents to be drawn for his personal use. Great was the dismay of the staff at the idea of having to inflict them on the already overburdened transport.

However, no sooner had Sir Pratap arrived than one tent was sent up with his compliments for use at B.H.Q., three others were sent to various messes, and Sir Pratap kept one only for himself.

An attempt had been made to get up some polo at Deiran on a fairly level piece of waste ground, but it was covered with stones. One day a special requisition was received from the Jodhpur Lancers for the Brigadier's counter-signature for 400 labourers' baskets, such as were used in Egypt for entrenching work. These were soon received from the R.E. stores, and next morning were seen all the Jodhpuris lined up at one end of the polo-ground, each with a basket. They then slowly moved down the ground and collected every stone off it, and there was some excellent polo that afternoon.

Both the Maharaja of Jodhpur and Sir Pratap at this time received the honour of the Order of the Nile, First Class, from H.H. the Sultan of Egypt.

Early in July the brigade moved into the Jordan Valley to take its place in the line. Sir Pratap was with them, and the Jodhpur Lancers were now commanded by Major Thakur Dalpat Singh (son of Harji), to whom he was devoted.

The Jordan Valley is not only decidedly hot in the summer, registering as much at 115° in the shade at Jericho, but, far worse, it is 1,200 feet below sea-level, and terribly depressing. Mosquitoes abounded, the dust was appalling, and dysentery and malaria were rife.

Sir Pratap's notes on this campaign are almost entirely a record of the dashing exploits of the Jodhpur Lancers, and contain practically no personal details of interest. He has, indeed, every reason to be proud of this gallant regiment, which he had been largely instrumental in raising, and which owed much of its training and discipline to him. Major (now Lieut-Colonel) C O Harvey, C.B.E., C.V.O., M.C., Brigade Major to the I.S. Cavalry, has, however, been good enough to furnish many valuable and vivid incidents in which Sir Pratap participated, and I cannot do better than give his account verbatim.

"We did our best to persuade Sir Pratap to stay in an hotel in Jerusalem. No E.P. tents could be taken with us, and we rubbed it into him how uncomfortable he would be. This only made him all the keener to come, and come he did.

"He would get up at daybreak, and either ride round the posts held by his regiment, or make his son, Hanut Singh, put his pony over a 5-foot bar with a blanket hung on it. This was a performance the luckless Hanut had to do every single morning, whatever he or the pony felt like. Sir Pratap would return about seven, have his breakfast, and then lie on a charpoy under a carindah bush, with a tarpaulin stretched over it, until the cool of the evening.

"On the night of July 13-14 we moved from

divisional reserve into the line at its southern extremity, into the portion which included the bridge-heads of Mahadat, Hajla, and Henu, relieving General Godwin's 10th Cavalry Brigade.

"We had hardly taken over before the Turks attacked us, and next morning we had a very successful show, which included a most dashing charge by two squadrons of the Jodhpur Lancers. In this charge one troop of the 'Jo-Hukms,' under Jemadar Asa Singh, carried on too far right up to the Turkish main position, and were all killed."

It was in this engagement that Major Dalpat Singh gained his M.C. Supported only by his Trumpet-Major, he galloped on an enemy machine-gun, killed the gunners, and captured the gun, and followed this up by capturing the Turkish commanding officer with his own hand.

To continue Major Harvey's narrative:

"Sir Pratap, luckily, though he thought it most unfortunate, had not come up with us on the night of the relief, and arrived next day too late to take part in the battle.

"He was delighted with the charge, and went about telling everyone that Jemadar Asa Singh was a blood relation of his. But two things upset him greatly:

"1. His son, Sagat Singh, who was Adjutant of the Jodhpur Lancers, had been ordered by his senior special service officer, Major Gell, to stay at regimental headquarters at the telephone in order to co-ordinate the attack and keep in touch with brigade headquarters. Sir Pratap, when he found out that Sagat had not taken part in the charge, was furious, and, telling him he was no son of his, refused to speak to him for several days. Major Gell told Sir Pratap that Sagat had only acted according to his orders, whereupon Sir Pratap refused to speak to Gell as well.

"2. Only two squadrons of Jodhpur Lancers

carried out the charge. The remaining two were supporting the mounted turning movement with fire action. This was not at all to Sir Pratap's liking, and many times a conversation such as this would go on with the Brigadier (General Harbord):

" Sir Pratap: 'Yes, very good charge; but why only two squadrons Jodhpur Lancers charge? Why not whole regiment?'

" General Harbord: 'But, Sir Pratap, the other two squadrons were doing equally good work supporting the charge with fire action, which is most necessary.'

" Sir Pratap: 'That's all very well. Next time you make Mysore and Hyderabad Lancers do fire action, and whole of Jodhpur Lancers charge.'

" Such was his spirit. He had no use for the modern methods of warfare. 'Me not liking propaganda, me fighting man,' was his favourite saying at that time; and his idea of fighting was to get on his horse and charge.

" He would often come and dine with us at brigade headquarters, and, after a couple of whiskeys and water, he would let himself go, and tell us various reminiscences, especially those dealing with the Royal Family, whom he reverently adored. He told us how last time he was in England he was dining with the King, and said to him: 'You no king, Sahib.'

" His Majesty: 'What, Sir Pratap?'

" Sir Pratap: 'You no real king, Sahib.'

" His Majesty: 'Why, Sir Pratap?'

" Sir Pratap: 'If you real king you would cut tongue off — — instead of letting him talk so much.'

" On another occasion he said to me:

" 'Jodhpur Lancers, all men got thumbs and first finger worn out.'

" Myself: 'How is that, Sir Pratap? What has happened to them?'

" Sir Pratap: 'You make them spend all their times



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Ellis J. Gray

polishing their bits and bridles. In war-time quite wrong to polish things.'

"Myself: 'Yes, I know that the text-books say so, but polish helps to maintain discipline and self-respect. You would not like to have the brass on your belt all dirty!'

"Sir Pratap: 'Look at my belt, Sahib; no brass on it to polish. Me fighting man, not propaganda man.'

"And, sure enough, he had devised a Sam Browne belt for himself without a single buckle or piece of brass on it.

"As everyone knows, Allenby's great advance in Palestine started at dawn on September 19. One brigade was in divisional reserve the first phase, but, even so, we left Arsuf (near Jaffa) at 6.30 a.m. on the 19th, rode to Liktera (eighteen miles), where we halted till nightfall, and then rode on again across Carmel to Afule, which we reached on the morning of the 20th. During the short halts on the march Sir Pratap never got off his horse, as, with his oft-broken legs, he found it hard to mount and dismount. He was, therefore, continuously in the saddle for some thirty hours, except for about five hours' rest at Liktera; and this at the age of seventy-four! He loved every minute of it, and it was the kind of warfare that appealed to him as real cavalry work.

"But it was a bit too much, even for him, and at Afule he went sick with fever. Before he could recover, the sad news arrived of the death of the young Maharaja of Jodhpur, and Sir Pratap was urgently summoned back to India once more to assume the duties of Regent.

"His departure was a tremendous loss to the brigade. While he was with us there was never a murmur or complaint from the Jodhpur Lancers. He ruled them with a rod of iron, and every order which went to them from the brigade had to be carried out to the letter. 'You are my General,

Sahib,' he used to say to General Harbord, ' and what you order I and the Jodhpur Lancers obey—Jo Hukm '

" Perhaps, however, it was as well that he went when he did. We went through a very strenuous six weeks between September 19 and October 31, and I doubt whether his health could possibly have stood it. Even if it had, he would almost certainly have been killed, either with the gallant Major Dalpat Singh at Haifa, or with his beloved Colonel Holden at Aleppo. As it was, he returned to India, and was able to put in four more very useful years of work in the service of Jodhpur and the British Empire.

" I have always looked upon him as the finest Indian I have ever had the honour to know—loyal to the core, a sportsman to his finger-tips, a gallant soldier, and a real gentleman "

The Jodhpur Lancers covered themselves with glory at Haifa, capturing that town, which was strongly fortified and defended, at a gallop. Sir Pratap was the recipient of a number of congratulatory letters and telegrams, including one from the Private Secretary to His Majesty on behalf of the King and Queen. General Allenby's telegram summarizes this gallant exploit:

" Congratulate you on the brilliant exploit of your regiment, the Jodhpur Lancers, who on the 23rd September took town of Haifa at a gallop, killing many Turks with the lance in the streets of the town, and capturing 700 prisoners. Their gallant Colonel, Thakur Dalpat Singh, fell gloriously at the head of his regiment. He was buried with full military honours.

" ALLENBY "

* In Sir Pratap's reply spoke the very heart of the man. He loved the boy, but his pride in him was greater still. When Major-General Sir John Shea asked what reply should be sent to General Allenby's

telegram, Sir Pratap pondered for some time, and said at last: "I thinking you sending this: Dalpat Singh's great day has arrived."

Some of Sir Pratap's reflections on the war and its aftermath are full of interest. "I was proud," he says, "to see six Rathore chiefs taking part in this great war with all the resources they could command.

"The Mahabharat of India was nothing to this war. Nearly all the nations took part in this gigantic struggle. The Germans were so well prepared that they astonished the world at the outset and crushed everything that stood in their way, while the Allies had to give way. But their motto from the very beginning was, 'He conquers who endures,' and it came out true in the end."

He pays a tribute to Lord Kitchener and Lloyd George for the part they played in the ultimate victory, and then goes on to say: "It was very patriotic and wise on the Kaiser's part that he abdicated at once, else the Allies would have taken Berlin in no time, and his 'Fatherland' would have turned into smouldering ruins. As for the Allies, the acceptance of the terms may have been good from a humane point of view, but to my mind, politically, it was a mistake, because I am sure the Germans would not rest without taking revenge some day. Most probably they will join hands with Russia.

"The result of the war has everywhere throughout the world produced a spirit of equality in nationalism. Every nation desires and has actually succeeded in setting up Republics. I am a man of strict aristocratic ideas, and not at all a believer in equality. The English constitution of Government is, to my mind, the best form, because it combines the monarchical and the popular form of Government.

"I very much dislike the present ideas of statesmen to reduce land and sea forces. Their idea is that this will reduce the chances of future war. Future wars

can never be stopped unless statesmen can control human nature, which is an impossibility. Even the Hindus who practised this dogma more than any other nation on the face of the earth failed to control this passion, and the result was that they got degenerated instead.

"There is a proverb that 'If you wish for peace, prepare for war.' Moreover, keeping up of armies, whether regular or by conscription, conduces to the general health of the nation. Besides this, if your armies and navies are at a low ebb, you cannot keep up your moral ascendancy among nations, and your enemies are sure to fall upon you if they find you weak."

CHAPTER XIX

LAST YEARS

ON recovering from his attack of fever, Sir Pratap returned to Cairo with the view of starting for India at an early date, for the news reached him that Maharaja Summair Singh was seriously ill. A few days later he heard that the young ruler was dead, cut off when he had barely crossed the threshold of his manhood. He at once dictated to Sir Harry Watson two telegrams, one to His Majesty's Private Secretary, and the other to the Viceroy, asking that he might again be appointed Regent of Jodhpur during the minority of Maharaja Ummaid Singh. Arrangements were speedily made for his return to India, and he was soon once more in Jodhpur.

The day after the Armistice he wrote to Colonel Clive Wigram, Assistant Military Secretary to His Majesty, and whom he was wont to call his nephew, expressing the hope that he might be chosen as a representative of India to participate in the Peace Conference. His letter runs:

" JODHPUR, RAJPUTANA,
" *November 12, 1918.*

" MY DEAR NEPHEW,

" The smashing blow so skilfully dealt by General Allenby has brought Turkey to its knees.

" I am glad to inform you that the Jodhpur Lancers played their part remarkably well in the Palestine Campaign. When the Turkish line was first broken, I was with my cavalry for three days and nights on

our horses, but in the subsequent charge which has brightened the page of our history, I am sorry to say that fever prevented me from taking part in it. The dashing charge of our cavalry was splendid and worthy of the Rathores. Thakur Hari Singh's son, Major Thakur Dalpat Singh, was in the thickest fight, and fell gallantly at the head of his cavalry in this memorable charge. To me it was highly gratifying and no less elating.

"The crumbling of the Austrian Empire to pieces and the practical surrender of Germany have rendered the termination of this titanic war a question of days only. It is highly probable that in settling and signing the terms of this historic peace, representatives of the world-wide British Empire will be summoned.

"Of all the soldier princes of India, I think I am the only soldier who has stuck to his post at the front throughout the war, and I hope it would be nothing but a fitting and gracious recognition of my loyal and humble services to the King and his Empire if I were honoured by being invited to partake in this august assembly.

"It is useless for me to add that I do confidently rely on your friendly help on this occasion, and have every hope that you will kindly leave no stone unturned in furthering my wishes.

"Please let me know how are my grand-nephews doing.

"With best regards

"Yours affectionately,

"PRATAP SINGH"

Great as Sir Pratap's services were, he could hardly have been considered seriously for this honour. His linguistic disabilities were too great, and increasing years had brought with them a tendency to somnolence when a lengthy debate was in progress.

There was no question, however, about his appoint-

of informing the Resident and no one else of his arrival

Shortly after his return Colonel Windham, who had been Resident for nearly eight years, bade farewell to Jodhpur. Sir Pratap was heart broken at his departure, and the farewell banquet was one of the saddest functions imaginable. Sir Pratap rose to propose his friend's health with tears rolling down his cheeks and could only reiterate, "Colonel Windham going all Rajput cry," until emotion compelled him to sit down.

In Colonel Windham's place came Mr L. W. Reynolds C I E, M C, and to him in a large measure is due the successful working of the administration during the minority. Only an officer with his tact, firmness and ability, could have grappled successfully with a situation which bristled with difficulties.

The breezy personality of Lieutenant-Colonel R. E. A. Hamilton, C I E, as Finance Member was very helpful in smoothing the rough places, until he succeeded to the Barony of Belhaven and Stenton, and had perforce to return to England.

There were several changes in the personnel of the council, which did not make for the initiation of any large schemes, but the way was paved for much of the constructive work since achieved, and, above all, the financial situation, which at first gave cause for temporary anxiety, was restored to soundness, and the resources of the state were greatly developed.

Sir Pratap, though playing his part manfully, was obviously feeling the weight of years, and his powers of discrimination were less acute than of yore.

Some months after his reappearance I spent a most entertaining morning with him, the while his heavy kit, which had only just arrived from Marseilles, was being unpacked.

Much of it had been lying there in storage for many months, and as the numerous packing-cases were

In November, 1921, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales came to Jodhpur, and Sir Pratap's delight was unbounded. A wonderful camp had been prepared for the Prince in the grounds of Ratanada Palace, which had been redecorated throughout for the occasion. The banqueting tent, which takes 300 men to pitch, is the same in which the investiture was held at the Delhi Darbar in 1911, to the accompaniment of fire-alarms and the glare of flames hard by, when the perfect calmness of their Majesties did so much to allay the fears of the packed assembly.

A day or two before the Prince's arrival there was a final meeting of the camp committee in the palace. A full length portrait of the Prince in khaki, painted for the occasion by the Hon. John Collier, had arrived in the nick of time, and was standing in the hall propped against a pillar. When Sir Pratap came, someone casually pointed out to him that the eyes of the picture followed one everywhere. Such a thing he had apparently never noticed before, and he was like a child with a new toy. Every fresh arrival was placed in front of it while Sir Pratap demonstrated.

"You coming here, eyes looking this way, now you coming here eyes looking this way."

It was a sheer delight to see him with the Prince. His eyes never left him for an instant if he could help it, during polo, when the Prince played something like eight chukkers, he watched every movement, and when the next morning he saw him stick his first pig, his cup was full. Formality, so far as possible, was laid aside, and everything was done to give H.R.H. a really good time. I doubt if he enjoyed any part of his tour so much, and, indeed, in its closing stages, when the advisability of cancelling his visits to one or two places was on the tapis, he expressed the wish to spend the time informally in Jodhpur.

Sir Pratap, before he died, had the great satisfaction of seeing the team of young polo-players, which he

had so painstakingly trained, hailed as the premier team of India, and he never relaxed his efforts to make them into a team whose name would go down to history.

He kept open house to the last, and many were his visitors during his last years. He loved Englishmen, whose manners he summed up by, "I thinking good gentlemen, plenty more thank you say."

But most of all, of course, he loved a soldier and a sportsman. Once a well-known Cabinet Minister came to Jodhpur and made a long speech at the banquet given in his honour. That morning he had been out after chinkara (small deer) and missed everything. At the end of his speech, Sir Pratap quietly said, "I thinkin' you very good paper man, no good shootin' man," and then, naïvely, "We all sondiers here!"

The remaining months of Sir Pratap's life were spent quietly, and for the most part in Jodhpur, but he was palpably failing and suffered a good deal from fever. Despite this, he was to the last the same courageous, charming personality.

The end when it came was sudden. I was rung up at 10 a.m. on September 9, 1922, by Colonel R. A. Lyall, Finance Member of Council, who said that Sir Pratap had been taken ill in the night and death had claimed him in the early hours of the morning. The funeral was to be in about an hour's time.

I changed hastily and went with Colonel Lyall to the club, where a handful of Europeans in the station were collected. Many, including the Resident, were away and could not, of course, arrive in time for the funeral. We walked across the polo-ground to the house in which he lay for the last time, and in a few minutes we marched with sad hearts to the place of cremation.

He had left full instructions. There was to be no vast concourse following in long procession, to the

sound of piteous wailing, to the cenotaph on the hill near the Fort, where he had the right, as one of the ruling family, to be cremated

It was all very simple. A few men from his beloved regiment, the tiny band of Europeans, and a few relations and Indian friends. He had chosen the place close to the parade-ground, and we Europeans stood aside at the entrance with bared heads and heavy hearts as he was borne past us by the white-clad mourners. That he was gone seemed unbelievable, but it was true. The last rites were performed, and to-day a simple marble chattri on a red sandstone base, without name or inscription, stands by the side of a plain memorial stone to his old comrade, Thakur Hari Singh of Deoli, to mark the passing of a great and loyal heart.

He died a comparatively poor man, leaving behind little beyond his personal effects.

Nearly four years have passed since that day, but his memory is ever fresh in the minds of those who loved him, and he will live as an example of a very perfect knight, the embodiment of the motto of his race "Ran banka Rathore" (Rathore famous in war)

To serve his King, this was his simple creed
When danger threatened, ever in the van
To love a soldier and a faithful stood,
To face life's battles every inch a man

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Jagheerdars those who had the hardest treatment would think that the whole arrangement originated in enmity and not in justice. If the Peshwa meant Gokhla's and Appa Desai's usurpations to be recovered in the end, those chiefs would think they had been deceived, and that they had been left out of the general settlement that they might not join with the other Jagheerdars and that the Peshwa might strip them at leisure after he was freed from all alarm from other quarters. In the third place I said it would defeat the intent of the whole plan which was to settle with all the Jagheerdars at once and for ever.

6. The Bhau continued to maintain that it was unnecessary to come to any settlement with these Chiefs but in such a manner as satisfied me that he was actuated by personal motives alone, and that the Peshwa would not in all probability support him. He at last agreed to make a reference to His Highness and I went on to suggest the necessity of settling the Peshwa's claims small as they were with the Dessye of Kittoor. I also invited the Bhow to state any other claims which His Highness might have on chiefs to the southward, that they might all be settled at once. The Minister mentioned some petty rebels and bands of thieves but admitted that they did not require our interference. He afterwards said that the Governor of Darwar was very inattentive to His Highness's orders; I enquired if His Highness had any claims on him, and the Bhow replied that the Governor had been put in by Nana Furnaveese against the Peshwa's will and that he had since enjoyed the command of the fort and the revenue of the lands dependent on it without ever acknowledging His Highness's authority but in words, that he had even refused the Peshwa the use of some of his own guns during the rebellion in Savanore, and that the fort was now in reality not the Peshwa's but his; on which I declared that I was aware of the improbability of our getting possession of Dharwar without a regular siege but that so anxious was your Lordship for a full settlement of the southern countries that I would undertake either to bring the Governor of that fortress into obedience to His Highness or to dispossess him, if His Highness would assign a suitable provision for his maintenance. The Minister was very sensible of the disinterestedness of this offer but after some conversation he admitted for reasons with which I need not trouble your Lordship that it was unnecessary for the British Government to embarrass itself with the settlement of Dharwar.

7. A long discussion followed respecting the proposal for His Highness's raising Battalions in which the Minister repeatedly said that the Peshwa would raise battalions but that he would not pledge himself to us to do so, and I as often complained of the unfriendliness of refusing to satisfy your Lordship on a point which the Peshwa was willing to agree to. The Minister said the Peshwa would agree to raise troops but not Battalions and at length he said that His Highness would do as he pleased and that it was no business of ours. This was so often and so offensively repeated that I was compelled to draw a strong picture of the evils which the

British Government had suffered from the Peshwa's inability to fulfil his engagements during Military operations. I stated that the weight of every war was left to us and that His Highness remained to all appearance a quiet spectator of contest which were often undertaken solely on his account; I said this was sufficient to show that the British Government was not on the present occasion practising any improper interference in the Peshwa's affairs, but justified in the advice it gave by a regard to its own rights and interests.

8. The Minister said the British Government was entitled by treaty to the aid of 5,000 Cavalry and 3,000 Infantry which should always be forthcoming, but that it had no further claim; I reminded him that he had only mentioned the troops which were to accompany the Subsidiary force and that on occasions where the British Government was obliged to employ additional troops His Highness was to apply the whole force of his empire to the war in which he and his allies were engaged and I added that His Highness could never be said to have called out the whole force of his empire unless he adopted some rational plan for the application of his Military resources; I said that his regular infantry were of no use at all and that his furnishing any member of them did not contribute to strengthen the alliance. The Minister replied to this last remark that such as His Highness's troops were it was by their Arms that the Maratta Government had long been upheld and by their means that it had been enabled to extend its conquest from Cape Comorin to the Indus. I answered by compliment the Maratta Cavalry; but observing, that the inferiority of their Infantry to ours was manifest and that I could not imagine why His Highness preferred keeping up an establishment of so useless a description to setting up an obedient and efficient body of regular infantry.

9. The Minister at last agreed to submit this question again to the Peshwa and I next renewed the discussion of the disputes with Kolhapore. The Minister showed no disposition to encourage the interference of the British Government in this affair. He said he was already engaged in a negotiation with the Rajah and that he hoped soon to bring it to a satisfactory termination. After enquiring into the nature of the terms which he was negotiating I pointed out the short duration of a peace founded on such principles and showed him that he must either remove the enmity of his antagonist by offering him justice or deprive him by superior force of the means of annoyance. The Minister interrupted me to say by that what I said was very true but that he should wish to have some more conversation with the Kolhapore Vakeel before he made up his mind whether it would be best to found the present peace on the basis of justice or on that of force alone.

10. I expressed my surprise at this strange avowal and then went on to show the Minister that his hope of accomplishing his wishes by force would be vain even if they were just; I reminded him that the war with Kolhapore had lasted for many years, that

peace had been made again and again and had always been broken when the Rajah had an opportunity of attacking His Highness. I then pressed on him the arbitration which I had before suggested and told him that he was now aware of the reasons which induced the British Government to bring it forward and must be sensible that the proposal did not originate in any prospect of advantage to ourselves. I told him that when preparations were made for the settlement of the Jagheerdars, it would be no additional exertion to impose a permanent peace on the Raja, but that when this crisis was past, there would no longer be any opportunity for our interfering with effect and that His Highness must not be disappointed if we never interfered at all. As it was on the mention of the claims which the British Government intended to bring forward on its own part that the Peshwa took the alarm, I endeavoured by all the arguments that occurred to me to remove all suspicion of an intention to render our arbitration subservient to the accomplishment of our own views, and at the same time to show that the question of enforcing our claims was quite distinct from that of arbitrating the Peshwa's differences, and that His Highness's consent or denial to the arrangement last alluded to, would not in any respect influence our right to carry the other into effect. I accompanied these observations with many arguments to prove the expediency of an arbitration by our Government and said that the arrangement of the southern countries would not be such as your Lordship expected if that measure were omitted. This discourse did not seem to make impression on the minister but he said he would take the Peshwa's orders on the subject.

11. I now adverted to His Highness's intended journey to Pandharpur (which I had learned with surprise was to be undertaken in one or two days) and enquired how far that place was from the nearest lands of the Jagheerdars. The Minister answering that it was within 10 miles of some of the possessions of the Patwardhan's and only 50 or 60 from the residence of the heads of that family, I enquired what force the Patwardhans could raise in a month. The Minister said without any hesitation 10,000 men. I then enquired into the strength, and composition of the party which is to accompany the Peshwa and found that it is to consist of 5,000 men including the troops under Gokhla and Madhoo Rao Dadjee Patwardhan. I then represented in forcible terms the danger to which the Peshwa would be exposed if my negotiations with the Jagirdars led to threats of war (as they probably would) while His Highness continued in so advanced a position. The Minister treated my apprehensions as chimerical and ridiculed the idea of any of the Jagirdars having the boldness to attack His Highness's person. I told him that such an attack would be so easy and if successful so decisive, that I thought the possibility of executing it would be a strong temptation with bold men to refuse complying with my demands, and that I would by no means recommend the Peshwa's trusting his safety to his adversary's want

of courage. Much conversation ensued regarding the danger of such an attack and the Minister repeatedly told me to make myself easy on that head and pursue my negotiations without any apprehension for His Highness.

12. I then remonstrated against the Peshwa's journey on other grounds as being an impediment to business and said His Highness would surely not leave the present question unsettled at a time when its execution ought to be commenced on. The Minister said that the Peshwa would settle the present affair by giving his unqualified consent to any thing the British Government might determine on, but that his journey to Pandharpore was of indispensable necessity, he had never omitted this annual pilgrimage and would never be prevailed on to do so. I then regretted that I had such short notice of his intention, but said I should be prepared to accompany His Highness as I had before apprized him. The minister when he was persuaded I was in earnest, seemed very averse to this step, but his objections appeared to arise entirely from his unwillingness to make the journey himself, which he will be obliged to do, if I accompany His Highness. He however said he would communicate my intention to the Peshwa.

13. In course of this evening's conversation I endeavoured to procure the Peshwa's signatures to an instrument investing the British Government with full powers. I also endeavoured to procure letters to the Jagirdars desiring them to consider me as authorized to settle with them and tried every means to obtain some record of the Peshwa's consent to the arbitration of the British Government, but the abhorrence of the Durbar to any thing like a written agreement rendered all my attempts ineffectual and I was obliged to be satisfied with the Peshwa's approbation of the written articles and his unqualified declaration so often repeated that the British Government was at liberty to make whatever settlement it pleased with the Jagheerdars.

14. I have this morning received private information that the minister had an early interview with His Highness at which he (indistinct) to him of the points which remain unsettled and the Peshwa showed some dissatisfaction that any should remain unsettled declaring that he had given me full powers to make any settlement, unrestrained, and that he had no intention of disputing any point with me. When the discussion about Gokhla and Appa Desai was mentioned His Highness said they must of course be settled with like the rest, but the Minister continued at intervals to endeavour to persist him to alter his opinion. His Highness's view of the danger attending his journey was widely different from that taken by his Minister. He declared that my apprehensions were perfectly well founded, that the former conduct of the Jagheerdars even towards himself made it absurd to suppose that they would respect his person and desired four plans to be communicated to me for my choice. The first was that I should keep

the plan, entertained by both Governments, secret till his return at the usual period. The second, that he should set off unaccompanied by any Jagheerdars but Gokhla. Make a short stay at Pandharpore and return in a fortnight or three weeks. The third was that he should be accompanied by me and escorted by three battalions, and the fourth that if all of the others were absolutely impracticable, he should put off his journey. To this however he showed the utmost reluctance and said that it would be the first time that ever his affairs had been so pressing as to require such a sacrifice. Nothing had been said about the battalions or the Kolhapore arbitration when these accounts came away.

15. Immediately on receiving this information I sent Khurshetjee to procure an audience of the Peshwa. I instructed him to reject the two first plans suggested and to entreat His Highness to defer his journey, but if His Highness showed an insuperable aversion to that (indistinct) to tell him that he should be accompanied by two Battalions of the Subsidiary Force and that I should be ready to attend him by the day after tomorrow. I also instructed Khurshetjee to use means to persuade the Peshwa to consent to the adjustment with Kolhapore and furnished him with every argument I could suggest to remove the Peshwa's doubts and to converse with him of the policy of agreeing to the arbitration.

16. I have not yet heard the result of this message. The first of the Peshwa's plans if it were advisable is impracticable to our designs in respect to the Jagheers (indistinct) certainly as yet entirely unsuspected both (indistinct) and at Seroor, but they have now been known for nearly a week to the Peshwa's Durbar, and I own I think it rather surprising they are still secret than probable that it will long remain so. The reports of the movement from the Southward are still continued and.....is now rumoured that they are designed against Darwar. The Jagirdars will surely be the first to hear of the existence of reports which so deeply affect their interests, and if once they are led to suspect our designs, numerous facts which are well known will combine to produce conviction of their reality. The Peshwa will then be in at least as unpleasant a predicament as that in which he would be placed if no attempt at concealment had been made. The second plan is not worth discussing, as it only makes a difference of a few days in the terms of the Peshwa's stay. I shall agree with reluctance to the third plan and not till I see that it is vain to press the fourth. If the two Battalions are moved the whole of the Subsidiary force must be put in a state to enable it to support them at a moments warning in case the conduct of the Jagheerdars becomes suspicious. This will involve expense and the troops which move to Pandharpore will be exposed to the utmost violence of the rains before operations are commenced, but if this arrangement should become unavoidable it will certainly be attended with benefits which will

nearly compensate its disadvantages. The vicinity of Pandharpore to the Jagheerdars will greatly facilitate the negotiations and the Peshwa's presence will give it weight, the advance of the two Battalions and the preparations of the rest of the Subsidiary force will also have the best effect on the mind of the Jagheerdars and will show them that the movement of the troops is not a measure which we will make sacrifices to avoid but the one which will be adopted in course in the event of their showing any disposition to hesitation and delay, and I hope the whole affair will have assumed a determinate shape before the return of His Highness the Peshwa to this capital.

P.S.

Since writing the above Khursetjee has returned from the Durbar. He was unable to procure an interview with the Peshwa or even with the Minister, who had been in close consultation with His Highness till a late hour last night. Khursetjee saw the Minister this morning and from his language the Peshwa appeared to have come to a decided resolution to proceed to Pandharpore. The four plans which His Highness had proposed were not mentioned but Khursetjee was told that the Peshwa would march tomorrow morning the 12th. The exception of Gokhla and Appa Desai from the list of the Jagheerdars was given up as were all contested points respecting that arrangement, but the Peshwa's sentiments had undergone no change on the questions respecting Kolhapore and the Battalions. I have sent Khursetjee again to endeavour at all events to see the Peshwa and to urge him to agree to the arbitration with Kolhapur. I have given him notes containing the strongest arguments I can discover in favour of that measure and have even authorized him to say that I am hesitating whether to begin on the adjustment with the Jagheerdars if so very important a branch of the disputes in the Southern countries is left unsettled. I have also authorized him to say that so far as the British Government from making His Highness's affairs subservient to its own views on Kolhapore that it regards the settlement of its own claims as secondary to that of His Highness's disputes, and that as there is a pressing necessity for adjusting the latter without delay, the British Government will postpone the satisfaction of its own demands if on communicating with the Raja such a sacrifice should appear necessary towards bringing His Highness's disputes to a close. I have written by express to Colonel Montresor requesting him to order two Battalions with their guns to march without delay direct to Pandharpore, and also to hold the rest of the force in readiness to move at a moment's warning. I shall endeavour to leave this place tomorrow but as there is no carriage belonging to the Residency, and none but hired bullocks to be procured in Poona, I am afraid I may not be able to set off till the next day. I have given notice to the different authorities of what has been done and have apprized them that nothing has occurred to require the movements of any troops except from Seroor, or any alteration in the state of preparation of those at any other station.

*Note addressed by Mr. Elphinstone to Sadashiv Mankeshwar
on the 12th of July 1812.*

I have received the messages which His Highness the Peshwa and you sent me by Khursetjee Modi. His Highness has been pleased to declare that I have full powers to negotiate with the Rajah of Kolhapore and to arbitrate his differences with that prince, but His Highness wishes me to proceed on the principles adopted by Lord Wellington and General Close, and begs, that I may do nothing hurtful to his honour. I therefore hasten to assure you for His Highness's information that I shall be careful to preserve the consistency for which British Officers are distinguished and that the Peshwa's honour is in no danger in my hands, and I beg you to satisfy His Highness that I shall pursue the same upright and impartial course as was followed by General Wellesley and by Colonel Close, and that I shall be as careful of His Highness's honour, as I should be of that of my own Government.

(A true translation.)

(Sd.) M. ELPHINSTONE,

Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 12.—The letter conveys the information that the Peshwa had invested Elphinstone with the fullest authority to settle with the Raja of Kolhapur, but on principles adopted by Lord Wellington and General Close. The Peshwa left for Pandharpur on the 12th morning and the Resident was to follow next morning.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR
GENERAL.

Poona, the 12th July 1812.

I had the honour to acquaint your Lordship in my dispatch of yesterday that I had sent Khursetjee to obtain an audience of the Peshwa at all events on the subject of Kolhapore. He succeeded with great difficulty late last night.

2. I had furnished him with notes containing many arguments in favour of the proposed arrangement, the most weighty were the following :—

The influence which the Kolhapore Rajah would have on the conduct of the Jagirdars both now and hereafter if he be allowed to remain in his present situation. The excuse which the Jagirdars will have for declining to send their contingents if the Rajah of Kolhapore is allowed to threaten their Jagirs. This was the ground of their refusing to accompany Lord Wellington and to come to Poona during Mr. Strachey's negotiation. The danger

to which their country will actually be exposed if their troops are withdrawn while no settlement has been made with Kolhapore. The necessity of recovering for the Patwardhans that part of their Serinjamy lands which is held by the Rajah of Kolhapore and the impossibility of doing so if the negotiation remains on its present footing.

3. I also directed Khursetjee to remove any apprehension on the Peshwa's part that the admission of our arbitration was equivalent to a renunciation of the disputed districts and to satisfy him that his claims would be impartially considered. He was also authorized to say that if on communicating with the Rajah of Kolhapore the claims of the British Government were found to form an obstacle to this very desirable adjustment, they should be laid aside for the present.

4. These arguments had due weight with His Highness and Khursetjee was informed first by the Minister and afterwards by the Peshwa that His Highness invested me with the fullest authority to settle with the Rajah of Kolhapore but that he hoped I would proceed on the principles adopted by Lord Wellington and General Close and that I would do nothing to compromise His Highness's honour.

In answer to this message I sent the enclosed note principally for the purpose of fixing His Highness's consent in writing.

5. His Highness the Peshwa marched this morning and I shall follow tomorrow at day break. The Vakeels of the Jagirdars are to accompany me and I shall probably open your Lordship's arrangements to them tomorrow.

Letter No. 13.—The letter with the enclosures indicate the procedure of the British Resident to settle accounts with the Maratha Jagirdars.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp at Wankery, July 19th 1812.

On the day after the date of my last dispatch I set out from Poona in company with the Minister. Madhao Rao Dadjee the brother of Appa Sahib and the brothers of the Jagirdars of Merich and Koorundwaur accompanied us with the portion of their contingents which they have thought proper to furnish. Madhao Rao Rastia was ordered to attend and sent his party promising to follow it himself but has since excused him on the ground of sudden indisposition. The whole of the Troops with the Minister do not exceed 1,500 men and I do not think the quotas of the Jagirdars amount to a third of that number.

2. We overtook His Highness the Peshwa on the second March from Poona but although we have marched at the rate of 20 miles a day. His Highness reached Pandharpore on the day before yesterday and we only arrived this morning at Wankery, three miles from the town.

3. Since I left Poona I have prepared letters for the Jagirdars of which I have the honour to enclose translations No. 1. The period fixed for their appearance at Pandharpore is the longest that the Peshwa's stay would admit of, and is amply sufficient for the journey as Appa Sahib the most distant of the Chiefs resides within 120 miles of Pandharpore while Merich is not above 60 miles from the same place. I have requested the Peshwa to send orders to the Jagirdars to attend without delay and they will be issued today or tomorrow. The time that was required for copying out these papers and the difficulty of procuring a meeting with the Vakeels on marching days has prevented my dispatching the whole of the letters at once, but I this morning sent off those to Appa Sahib, to Chintaman Rao and to the Jagirdars of Merich and Koorundwar. I sent for the Vakeels of those chiefs two days ago and those of Appa Sahib and the Jagirdars of Merich and Koorundwar attended yesterday evening. I stated much more plainly than I could do in writing, the resentment which the Peshwa had entertained against the Jagirdars, the difficulty which the British Government had experienced in prevailing on him to agree to the present times (stated in enclosure No. 2) the attention which had been paid to the interest of the Jagirdars in framing them and the impossibility of any alteration being now made in them. I also explained the preparations which had been made for enforcing the Peshwa's demands, the impossibility of allowing it to remain long a question whether or not our troops were to be employed and consequently the absolute necessity of the Jagirdars giving up their habits of procrastination on this occasion unless they were prepared to hear of the immediate advance of the British Troops and I pointed out the great advantages which they would derive from the guarantee of the British Government in terms which I could not use in a letter without appearing to undervalue the promises of His Highness, the Peshwa. The letters, the articles enclosed and the list of lands held without sunnuds, by their masters were read to each of the Vakeels who agreed to every thing contained in them with the following exceptions. They all three declared against their masters coming to Pandharpore. Two of them said their masters had long been subject to illnesses which rendered such a journey impracticable and the third declared that his master could not think of leaving the Peshwa's fort of Merich exposed to the dangers which it might incur in his absence. They also used many arguments to prove that the presence of their master was not necessary. In reply to all this I said that the Jagirdars must absolutely attend. That ill health and similar excuses had been so often employed for the last ten years, that it would be impossible to satisfy the Peshwa that they were now

founded in reality and that the great use of the attendance of the Jagirdars was that it afforded a proof that those chiefs had renounced their old habits and were resolved to conform to His Highness's commands in future.

4 The Vakeels generally admitted the Peshwa's claims to the lands mentioned in the lists enclosed in their letters, which were reduced from the lists enclosed in my letter to Mr Edmonstone, dated October 26th 1811, by striking off all pecuniary demands.

5 Appa Sahib's Vakeel however stated claims to two places one of which was Koosigul and I told him that those claims would be fairly examined hereafter but that in the mean time the lands must be given up

6 The Vakeels concluded by expressing the greatest readiness on their master's parts to conform to the terms proposed to them but I scarcely think that all I have said on the subject will induce the Jagirdars to desist from their usual plan of trying to gain time or will convince them that the British Government is in earnest till they learn that the subsidiary force is in Motion I shall request Colonel Montresor to advance as soon as I see any symptoms of hesitation on the part of the Jagirdars but it must depend on the information I receive at the time whether it will then be necessary to call for the proposed reinforcements (so as to enable Col. Montresor to act against Merich) or merely to move out the force at Seroor for the purpose of intimidating the Jagirdars.

7 I have the honour to inform your Lordship that a Brigade of the Subsidiary force consisting of the Grenadiers Battalion and the 1st Bn. 8th Regt. with 4 field pieces under the command of Major Mahony has reached a place within one march of Pandharpore and is expected to arrive tomorrow

*Substance of a letter from Mr Elphinstone to Chintaman Rao,
dated July 19th 1812.*

After compliments,

The British Government has long viewed with concern the unsettled state of His Highness the Peshwa's dominions in the Carnatic and its vicinity which for various reasons have hitherto remained unadjusted to the great damage of the chiefs of that country as well as of His Highness the Peshwa and his allies. The country has been a scene of confusion and disorder, the Chiefs have been engaged in continual wars and distractions which has deprived them of all personal comfort and security and has occasioned the ruin of their Serinjamy lands. They have been estranged from the Peshwa's favour and have lived in constant anxiety from the uncertain tenure by which they have suffered in their reputation from the repeated and peremptory orders which

His Highness the Peshwa was obliged to send to them on all occasions. In the mean time the Peshwa has lost the benefit of their services and the alliance has been deprived of the benefit of a cordial co-operation between all the members of His Highness's empire in the prosecution of hostilities against foreign enemies.

These disorders had at length risen to such a pitch that the Peshwa would soon have been obliged to take the whole of the country in question into his own hands. On a consideration of all these circumstances the British Government (which is united by the strictest ties of friendship with the Peshwa and which has always taken an interest in the welfare of the Jagirdars and is unwilling that any misfortune should befall them) has resolved to interfere and exert itself to remove all these disorders and distractions and establish an arrangement which shall at once secure the dignity and advantage of His Highness's Government and preserve the prosperity and honour of the Jagirdars.

I have accordingly been commanded by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General and empowered by His Highness the Peshwa to propose certain terms to you of which a copy is enclosed. The British Government will guarantee the fulfilment of these terms towards all the Sirdars who accept them and it will employ its whole resources in conjunction with His Highness the Peshwa to reduce any person who may obstruct the execution of a plan so just in itself and so advantageous both to the Peshwa and his Sirdars.

The first of the enclosed articles stipulates that the Peshwa shall take no notice of past injuries, a condition which was inserted for your satisfaction. The renunciation of old pecuniary claims on each side is necessary to obviate all dispute and I have every reason to think it is highly advantageous to you. The restoration of all lands held without sunnuds as stated in the second article, is a measure of too obvious justice to require any comment. The third article stipulates that you shall serve His Highness the Peshwa according to your Serinjamy Tenure, which is the condition on which your lands were granted to you. You must therefore from every principle of duty and honour be willing to fulfil it. If you have any objection to discharge this duty you would not retain in your possession the lands which you hold of His Highness. No new demand is made on you under this head; you are merely required to perform the duties which belonged to your ancestors and to fulfil the engagements into which you have yourself entered. The Serinjamy lands which you hold by Sunnuds from the Peshwa's Government will remain in your hands. Should you have been deprived of any of your Serinjamy lands, a proportionate reduction will be made in your contingent. The British Government pledges itself to the security of your lands as long as you continue to serve His Highness the Peshwa with fidelity and you

may rest assured that during the continuance of your faithful services no injury shall be offered to you. It shall be the business of the British Government to persuade the Peshwa to this. It is unnecessary that I should point out the entire security which you will derive from the interposition of the British faith since the fidelity of the British Government to its promises and engagements is so well known, but I beg you to contrast the security you will enjoy with the state of uncertainty in which you have so long remained, possessing your lands on conditions which you have never fulfilled and consequently daily liable to the resumption of your whole possessions. The British Government you will observe charges itself with the security not only of your possessions but of your honour so that no objection can remain to your performing your duties and attending with confidence in person. I doubt not that you will immediately comply with demands so just and moderate and all things considered so favourable to yourself but as for particular reasons this affair must be brought to an immediate conclusion. I shall proceed to state the only measures that can be received as proofs of your sincere disposition to avail yourself of the terms now offered to you. First your delivering over the lands which you hold without Sunnuds to the Peshwa's officers without delay or hesitation as soon as those officers present themselves; any unreasonable exceptions taken to the officers or to the nature of the Commissions with which they are entrusted will be considered as a flat refusal to execute this demand. Secondly your attending in person at Pandharpore with the least possible delay for the purpose of accompanying His Highness the Peshwa to Poona. As His Highness leaves Pandharpore in 20 days at the farthest from the date of this dispatch, His Highness is pleased to dispense with the attendance of your contingent on this occasion as you might be unable to assemble it within the period assigned, but it will be expected to appear at Poona complete in numbers and equipment, and ready for field service by the Dussera. Your failure to attend at Pandharpore at the time appointed will be held as an unequivocal proof of your disposition to disobey His Highness's just authority, and I shall act accordingly. These demands are so clearly just that I do not expect you will hesitate to comply with them, but should hesitation take place it will be a matter of necessity for me to adopt the course which I have already alluded. If you have any statement to offer, it will receive every attention after you should have complied with the preceding stipulations; the shortness of His Highness the Peshwa's stay at Pandharpore obliges me to request you will favour me with an answer to this letter within two days after you receive it. I shall be under the necessity of considering your failure to reply within the time appointed as a denial and to act accordingly.

I have now only to assure you of the good will of the British Government towards you personally, and to offer you any service in my power towards the adjustment of your affairs.

I am, etc., etc.

Alterations made in the letters addressed to the remaining Chiefs.

In the letter to Appa Sahib Patwardhan, after the words highly advantageous to you (page 3) are inserted the following:—"His Highness the Peshwa will make no pecuniary demands upon you except for the money which you collected at Savanore, amounting to two lacks of Rupees and which you are required to refund. As it was through Mr. Russell that you promised to pay that sum to the Peshwa, it is not in my power to intercede with His Highness to obtain its remission" and in the same letter after the words "attending with confidence in person" (Page 5) are the following:—

"Exclusive of the articles before mentioned, His Highness the Peshwa has one demand to make upon you, viz. That you will send to Poona the Karkoons of the late Subedar of Savanore who are with you, to adjust their accounts with His Highness. Except this and the claim for 2 lacks of Rupees before stated no other demands shall be made upon you, in the event of your compliance with the terms enclosed."

In the letter addressed to Narain Rao of Merich all mention of usurped lands is omitted as he had usurped no lands from the Peshwa. He is required first to give up Baba Furkia a delinquent towards the Peshwa's Government, and now in confinement at Merich and to deliver up His Highness's Guns which are deposited in Merich as soon as His Highness's officers shall present themselves to receive charge of them and secondly to attend at Pandharpore in 14 days, and to furnish his contingent at the Dussera in the same manner as the other Chiefs.

(True translations)

(Sd.) R. CLOSE,

Assistant.

Terms proposed to the Southern Jagirdars and enclosed in Mr. Elphinstone's letter to Chintaman Rao Patwardhan, of July 19th 1812.

The British Government engages that no notice shall be taken of past offences by the Peshwa and also that the Jagirdars shall not be molested by the revival of old claims of a pecuniary nature or otherwise, on the other hand the Jagirdars promise never to revive any former claims on His Highness the Peshwa.

2. The Jagirdars engage to restore promptly all usurped lands without exception and to relinquish all revenues which they enjoy without Sunnuds. Their sunnuds, to be examined for this purpose and any grounds they may offer for mitigation to be hereafter investigated. Under this article all lands which are held in Comawus are to be restored to the Peshwa.

3. The Jagirdars engage to serve his Highness the Peshwa according to the former practice of the Maratta empire as laid down in the Tynaut Zaubitas.

4. The Jagirdars are to carry on no hostilities whatever unless authorized by His Highness the Peshwa and should any occasion arise for private wars among themselves, they promise to submit their disputes to the Peshwa and to abide by His Highness's decision.

5. The British Government pledges itself that the Jagirdars shall retain undisturbed possession of their Sunnud lands as long as they serve His Highness the Peshwa with fidelity and also promises to use its influence to induce His Highness to restore them to favour and to treat them with due consideration on the same terms.

6. His Highness the Peshwa has entrusted all the negotiations affecting the preceding questions to the British Resident who has been instructed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General to carry them into effect and to see that they are punctually observed.

(A true translation)

(Sd.) R. CLOSE,

Assistant.

Letter No. 14.—This letter and its enclosures contain information about the attitude of Appa Desai, Narain Rao of Miraj and Raja of Kolhapur in regard to the territorial and other disputes between them and the Peshwa. Appa Desai's letter is important since he says therein that he being the only Maratha Sirdar in the Peshwa's service while the rest were Brahmin Sirdars, there was little friendliness between them. Further the reply of Elphinstone contains the information that Appa Desai was loyal to the British and served General Wellesely with a contingent in the 2nd Maratha War.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA,

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Camp at Pandharpur, July 30th 1812.

About the same time that I dispatched the letters to the Patwardhans of which I had formerly the honour to forward copies, I also addressed a letter to Appa Desai requiring him to give up the lands which he held without authority. This letter began with the same general statement of the disorders in the Peshwa's southern countries and of your Lordship's instructions as that contained in my letters to the other Chiefs but the rest of the letter was, as your Lordship will observe from the enclosed translation (No. 1) entirely different from the former letters and suited to Appa Desai's situation and conduct, which by no means resembles that of the Chiefs who have resisted the Peshwa's authority.

2. My letter however has given great offence to Appa Desai, and his answer of which a translation is enclosed (No. 2) is couched in a strain of indignation which would not be unreasonable if the language which I have applied to the other Chiefs had been directed against him. He complains of the hardships of his situation, states his labours and services, remonstrates against my treating him as a rebel and concludes by offering to resign his Jagir. Appa Desai's general good character and the manly style of his letter leave no ground for suspecting the sincerity of his professions of obedience and I doubt not that he will give up the lands he holds without authority when required. I have therefore written a letter to him (No. 3) in which although I repeat the peremptory demand, regarding the Peshwa's lands I have taken pains to remove all ground of offence and to satisfy Appa Desai that the British Government takes a strong interest in his welfare and will pay every attention to his claims. I have also fully explained to his Vakeel that he ought to distinguish that part of my letter which contains a narrative of what has past in the Carnatic and a statement of your Lordship's order to me, from the part which is addressed to Appa Desai and which contains allusions to his conduct.

3. On the same day on which I mentioned my design of opening your Lordship's proposals to Madhoo Rao Rastia, I had an interview with his Vakeel and gave him a copy of the letter which I addressed to his master at Poona. He has since been twice with me and after starting some objections and stating many hardships to which Rastia was still exposed from the Peshwa's former severity towards him, he communicated Rastia's full consent to fulfil the demands which had been made on him without delay and to wait the time which had been fixed for examining into his pretensions.

4. After I had written to the Chief of Merich (Miraj) regarding Baba Furkia and the Peshwa's guns, I learnt that Furkia though confined in Merich, was considered as Appa Sahib's prisoner and that the guns were also considered to be in his charge. I therefore wrote to Appa Sahib requesting him to write to the Chief of Merich on the occasion. I have this morning received his answer (No. 4) which denies that he has any concern with Furkia and states that he told the Peshwa when he was at Poona that he was ready to give them up and that he was still in the same disposition. As Appa Sahib's own Vakeel informed me that Furkia was in his master's charge I conceive the present account to be a mere evasion and with respect to his promise to give up the guns, it was made nine years ago and is not yet performed. His reference to that promise may therefore be considered as a refusal. As I so lately wrote to Appa Sahib I thought it unnecessary to answer this letter.

5. I have this day received the answer of the Chief of Merich which touches on various subjects of inferior importance, but takes no notice of my demand for his personal attendance. I have written to him on this occasion for former's sake, but I hope that

the letter which I wrote to him respecting the advance of the troops in consequence of Appa Sahib's rejection of the proposed arrangement, will have already induced him to determine on coming in. I entertain the same hope respecting the Chief of Kooroodwar, who has not yet given me any answer. I have the honour to enclose translation (Nos. 5 and 6) of the Chief of Merich's letter and of my answer.

6. Chintaman Rao left Sanglee on the day before yesterday. My Hircarrahs who brought the letter from Merich, inform me that he was yesterday encamped at Bosah some miles from that fort, and he may be expected here in course of tomorrow. I have done everything in my power to persuade the Peshwa to give him a cordial and honourable reception.

7. The Peshwa being at present highly satisfied with the lively interest which the British Government has shown in the adjustment of his claims on the Jagirdars, I thought the occasion favourable for procuring his concurrence in the proposed arrangement with the state of Sawant Warree, which at most times he would certainly be disposed to resist. I therefore sent a message yesterday to the Minister to say that as the adjustment of His Highness's affairs was now far advanced, it was time to think of those of the British Government and that accordingly a negotiation was about to be commenced for the purpose of acquiring such forts on the coasts of Kolhapore and Sawant Warree, as should secure our trade from the depredations that had been hitherto experienced. The Minister at first protested against this arrangement and said we ought to apply to the Peshwa to secure our trade but on a repetition of the proposal which was made to him at the beginning of the discussions respecting Kolhapore, he gave up the argument and said the Peshwa had no objection. I shall however wait till I hear the Peshwa's own sentiments on this subject before I announce his consent to the British Envoy at Goa. I shall soon be able to renew the negotiation with the Rajah of Kolhapore under more favourable circumstances than those in which it was brought forward, but still the Rajah shows no signs of any inclination to submit to our arbitration much less to purchase it by a cession of territory.

*Translation of a letter from Mr. Elphinstone to Appa Desai
Sirlushkur, dated July 21st 1812.*

The British Government has long viewed with concern the unsettled state of His Highness the Peshwa's dominions in the Carnatic and its vicinity, which for various reasons have hitherto remained unadjusted to the great damage of the Chiefs of that country as well as of His Highness the Peshwa and his allies. The country has been a scene of confusion and disorder, the chiefs have been engaged in continual wars and distractions which has deprived them of all personal comfort and security and has occasioned the

ruin of their Serinjami lands. They have been estranged from the Peshwa's favour and have lived in constant anxiety from the uncertain tenure by which they held their lands and they have suffered in their reputation from the repeated and peremptory orders which His Highness the Peshwa was obliged to send to them on all occasions. In the meantime the Peshwa has lost the benefit of their services and the alliance has been deprived of the benefit of a cordial co-operation between all the members of His Highness's empire in the prosecution of hostilities against foreign enemies. These disorders had at length risen to such a pitch that the Peshwa would soon have been obliged to take the whole of the country in question into his own lands. On a consideration of all these circumstances the British Government (which is united by the strictest ties of friendship with the Peshwa and which has always taken an interest in the welfare of the Jagirdars and is unwilling that any misfortune should befall them) has resolved to interfere and exert itself to remove all these disorders and distractions, and establish an arrangement which shall at once secure the dignity and advantage of His Highness's Government and preserve the prosperity and honour of the Jagirdars; I have accordingly been commanded by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General and empowered by His Highness the Peshwa to propose certain terms.

You have always from the first served His Highness with the most laudable zeal and fidelity, I have therefore no doubt that you will immediately comply with the enclosed demands as far as they relate to you. I have therefore sent them to you in a friendly way relying with entire confidence on your conforming to them.

The first article only relates to you in as much as it contains a mutual renunciation of old claims, which is plainly for your advantage.

The second article relating to the restoration of lands held without authority, has a more immediate connection with your affairs I enclose a list of the lands of that description in your possession extracted from the records of the Peshwa's Government. I have no doubt that when the Peshwa sends his officers to take possession of them you will respect His Highness's authority and give them up without delay. Should you have any just claims on those countries, the British Government and the Peshwa will speedily investigate them but in the meantime the lands must be delivered up.

The third article is of obvious justice. It relates to all the Jagirdars, but you are not required at present to attend and it is unnecessary to remind so distinguished a Sirdar that when you are called on you must attend without delay.

As you are in great esteem with the Peshwa and are acquainted with the steady friendship of the English, I need not say much about the guarantee of the British Government, but I must

earnestly beg you to make over the lands held without authority as soon as they are demanded. If you should make any delay I must proceed as I do with the other Jagirdars and it will be a very serious affair. Rest assured that you will continue to enjoy the favour of the British Government as you have done hitherto and it will never vary. If I can assist you in any way in your present settlement it will give me great pleasure.

Translation of a letter from Siddojee Rao Naik Nimbaulkar Sur Lushkar (Appa Desai) to Mr. Elphinstone, dated the 17th of Rejub corresponding to 26th of July 1812.

After compliments.

The letter which you lately addressed to me, arrived at an auspicious moment and gave me great pleasure. You have written that it is the desire of both the allied Governments that such lands as are held without sunnuds should be given up. Is there any difficulty in surrendering up to the Government its own lands. Should the Government even require the surrender of those which are held of it by sunnuds, it would be the part of a rebel to refuse obedience. It is the duty of a servant to obey as long as his master required his services, but when the Master is dissatisfied, where is the use of serving him. Five or six hundred years have now past since my ancestors first entered the service of the kings of Bijapore, after the subversion of whose Government they served no other master, but till the present time; they were never exposed to reproach from any one. What is the object of your writing to me about lands held with or without authority. On being called upon to do so, I will surrender them, and whatever is kindly bestowed upon me I will receive. This is the duty of a servant. I have nothing to ask of that Government nor am I its servant. When General Wellesley came to this Quarter he as a friend took me and my troops along with him.

By borrowing money in all directions I was enabled to continue on that service for a year and a half when I returned to Poona. What was done for me at that period is known to him. The Peshwa detained me at Poona for a year afterwards. The Rebels then assembled troops and I was ordered by both Governments to march against them. By collecting a little money I performed that service to the best of my ability, but for four years I never received a farthing from my Jagheer nor was my authority established in the Serinjamee lands allotted to me. It was formerly agreed by both Governments that I should proceed on service with the English Army and that my affairs should be settled in conformity to the written engagements of the Sirkar, but for four years I was obliged to provide for myself and no place was granted to me nor were two rupees ever collected by me. I therefore incurred a debt of from 5 to 10 lacks of rupees, with which I maintained a force of ten or fifteen thousand men and had moved out with an intention to take possession of my Serinjami

lands when a Hoojra from the Peshwa and a letter from the Resident arrived saying that the Soobehdary of the Carnatic had been taken from the late Bal Kishan Pant Lago, and was conferred on Anand Rao Ramchandra, but that the former of these had rebelled and would not give up his situation, and desiring that I would punish him and restore the authority of the Government. Such was the order of the two Governments. I conceived it would have been highly improper of me to neglect the affairs of the Sirkar and pursue my own, and I therefore proceeded to Savanoor where I was employed for eight or nine months in restoring the Peshwa's authority. The rainy season then set in, the rivers swelled and I returned to my own dwelling. The Curveercur (Rajah or Kolhapore) soon after assembled an army of 10 or 15 thousand men which was sent against me and marched to Bairkee. On my part likewise a force of from ten to twenty thousand men was collected. The war lasted for two years and I kept possession of what I had acquired by it. Some of my acquisitions remained to be settled when in the following year Anand Rao Ram Chandra was deprived of his office of Soobehdari of Savanoor and Purrus Ram Khande Rao was appointed to it. Letters then came to me from the allied Government to the same purpose as those which I had formerly received. My other affairs at that time remained unadjusted, but it was incumbent on me to obey the orders of my Government and therefore leaving 5,000 men opposed to the Curveercur, I took with me 10,000 men with whom I marched to Savanore and reduced the rebels, and after establishing the authority of the Government I returned. At the same time the Desai of Urcoor rebelled and delivered up to the Kolhapore Rajah the Peshwa's fort of Cullaniddee towards Chundurgarh. I marched thither and after a siege of two months, I took the fort and delivered it over together with its dependancies to the Peshwa's Officers. From thence I returned and some time afterwards the Curveercur assembled an army at Wullubgur whence he invaded the territories of the Sirkar which suffered great damage, I marched against the fort and reduced it after a seige of about six weeks. From that time to the present which is a space of two or three years, there have been constant disputes between us, the countries of each have been laid waste and an army of from 10 to 20 thousand men has in consequence been always maintained during that period. It is now ten or eleven years that I have faithfully served the Sirkar without intermission and I shall continue to do so. It was formerly promised by both Governments that the districts of Chicoory and Manowley whatever might be their extent, should be assigned to me and that after I had taken possession of them no one should be suffered to disturb me. The Curveercur however wages war upon me every year, assisted by some Sirdars of the Government, these matters have not yet been settled either by the Peshwa's Government or by the Company, and I have been involved in many difficulties on account of His Highness's affairs. No one concerns himself in the equitable adjustment of these districts. Two lacs and a quarter of Rupees were granted me in the

Hyderabad territories on account of my offices of Sur Lushkar and Rs. 65,000 on account of Bundgur. Sunnuds for those assignment were issued to me by the Sirkar but for ten years past I have not realised a farthing. I dispatched troops four or five times to take possession of those grants and those preparations involved an expense of from 5 to 10 Lacs of Rupees. My Vakeel has made repeated representations on this subject to both Governments and my friends (the English) pledged themselves to procure a settlement of this matter, but as yet I have derived no benefit from it. Under such circumstances a letter has come from my friend addressed to me as if I were a rebel, it remains therefore for you to do whatever appears to you to be just and proper. Your writing to me in that manner has induced me to enter into the foregoing detail. Ramchandra Pant (Appa Sahib) Trimbak Rao of Coorundwar and Ganpat Rao of Shaurhul give the Peshwa to understand that the Nipanneekar retains in his own hands certain Enaums Villages of the Kolhapore Rajah's to which they are entitled.

Now the Kolhapore Rajah and I have been at variance for 6 or 7 years past on account of the affairs of the Sirkar, and yet not one of those Sirdars have ever given the least assistance, but they now come forward with claims to Enaum villages. It is true that the Rajemindulcar (the Rajah of Kolhapore) has granted them sunnuds for Chikoree itself, but how is it that they have not been ordered by the Sirkar to take possession of it. Those Sirdars however are all Brahmins, and I alone am a Maratta. They have long since been desirous that I should have no influence in the Durbar and the Peshwa having listened to their representations is now displeased with me. Is this reasonable? I am not an old servant. Those who are, will say this is mine and that is my master's; but it does not signify. What do we, who are servants stand in need of? Whatever we have, belongs to our sovereign, and whatever he requires from us, we are ready to give. I have never carried on any intercourse with the Peshwa except through the British Government? What I have had to say has always been communicated by my Vakeel to the British Resident who has stated it to His Highness. Whatever I have had to do with the Peshwa is known to the Resident and to my Vakeel. I request you will communicate your sentiments to my Vakeel, who will fully state my circumstances to you. If it is required that I should give up Neepani, I am ready to send you an order for its surrender. I consent to this, and accordingly it shall be given up to whoever comes to me properly authorized to receive charge of it. I am a servant and what need is there of all this negotiation whatever may be the desire of the allied Governments, I am ready to comply with it. I am still prepared to raise lacs of men and to expect Crores of rupees in the services of the Government notwithstanding all the difficulties which I would draw upon myself, but if no service is required of me and I am yet exposed to reproach it is unbecoming in me to be dissatisfied about it. I have not yet got possession of the lands for which sunnuds have been granted to me but you

have written in your letter that you will act towards me with justice and propriety. The lands which I hold are not mine, they belong to the Sirkar as do the Zamindars. I request the latter may all be summoned before you, that you will enquire of them what revenue I have collected since Serinjami lands were first allotted to me and that you will do justice accordingly. I also beg you will enquire what expences I have incurred. For what number of troops provision was granted me by the Sirkar, and how many I have maintained for the service of the Government and that you will judge accordingly. Any loss I may sustain is of little consequence if your mind is satisfied. When the Peshwa went on his pilgrimage to Cartik Swamee I accompanied His Highness with my troops and when Sadashiv Pant Bhau the Minister came to this part of the country before the.....I attended him also. When Mahipat Ram marched from Pyetun and the British troops went in pursuit of him, I received orders from both Governments to detach a part of my force with them and 4,000 men were instantly sent. Whenever I have orders from the Sirkar I have never failed in the performance of my duty, but if others have made false representations concerning me and they have met with attention, I have no help for it. You have written that it is the desire of both Governments that no disputes should arise among the Sirdars, but the Kolhapore Raja quarrels every year with the Peshwa's Sirdars and neither of the Government concerns itself in their adjustment. After you have rightly considered all that I have written, I beg you will send me any commands you may think proper. If however you do not intend to decide with justice, but propose to act as is agreeable to the wishes of the Sirkar; let me know even that, and I will comply with it. What necessity is there for writing to me always on this subject. So many days have past and I never before heard of such proposals, as have been brought forward by both Governments. I beg however that your determination may be formed at once upon this subject and that you will send me an answer. I will act agreeably to it. I have no intention to adopt any measures that may be at variance with your wishes or those of the Peshwa. I am a servant and will obey whatever orders may be issued by the Government.

Send me at all times friendly letters. What need I say more.

(A true translation)

(Sd.) R. CLOSE,
First Assistant.

*Substance of a letter from Mr. Elphinstone to Appa Desai
Surlushkar, dated the 30th July 1812.*

I have had the pleasure of receiving your letter. You say "a letter has come from my friend addressed to me as if I were a rebel". I never had any intention of throwing such an imputation on you. *I am well acquainted with your services, which you have*

enumerated, particularly with your attendance in General Wellesley's Army, where my acquaintance with you first commenced. I beg that you will have the goodness to read over my letter again. If any harsh expression is used there, you will find that it is applied to those who refuse to obey the Peshwa's orders, and that you are never mentioned but in terms of approbation. If there should be any expression which is disagreeable to you, you are acquainted with the plainness of English manners and know that we go straight to the purpose without attending much to forms and phrasology. At all events you may assure yourself that I am well acquainted with your character and services and that your devotion to His Highness the Peshwa and your fidelity to the British Government are not forgotten. Your acquaintance with me ought to have prevented your falling into such suspicions.

With respect to what you say of the general enmity which is entertained against you and your readiness to give up your serinjamy lands, I have to remark that you enjoy a high share in the Peshwa's favour and that as long as there is a British Minister at this Court you will never be without a friend. I hope you will long enjoy your lands, and assure you that the British Government will have great pleasures in seeing your Jagheers increased, far from wishing it diminished. With respect to the lands held without authority, all the Sirdars have been written to that they would not be permitted to retain any lands of that description, and no distinction can be made from favour or friendship, since it would be obviously unjust to pursue different courses towards different persons in the same affair. You ought not therefore to consider this demand as any reflection on you. You must give up the lands which you hold without authority to the Peshwa who is the real owner and after that is done, I have promised that your claims shall be enquired into and your reasonable demands attended to. This will be done to every one, and will not be omitted with you in particular, who are a friend of the British Government.

The numerous statements contained in your letter will be duly replied to at a proper season, of this you may rest assured. I shall at present reply to what you state about the Rajah of Kolhapore. The British Government has long observed that the Rajah gives you no peace, and that although you have defeated him in several battles, yet he still renews the attack. The British Government has therefore determined to interfere (with the Peshwa's consent) and take the adjustment of this affair on itself. The Peshwa has given his consent and I am commanded by the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General to enquire into the justice of the Rajah's demands and if he refuses to admit the arbitration of the British Government, other means will be adopted for bringing about an adjustment. This affair will speedily be begun on and you may rest assured that if you do not gain by the adjustment (as you most probably will) yet at all events you will not lose. To conclude, it is proper that you should make over the Peshwa's lands to the officer

appointed to receive them, and that you should afterwards inform me of your claims in favour of which I shall be happy to use all the exertion in my power, and hence-forward satisfy yourself that the British Government is not unmindful of your fidelity and valor, and entertains the greatest kindness and consideration for you. Allow no suspicions of an opposite nature to enter your breast.

(A true translation)

(Sd.) M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona.

*Translation of a letter from Narain Rao of Merich to
Mr. Elphinstone, dated the 17th Rejub.*

After compliments.

I have received your letter of the 20th of July, and it has given me great pleasure. You have written (recapitulate the contents of my letter) the whole of which has been understood. Concerning Baba Furkia, security was given to the Sirkar by Hari Pant Baba and by Chintaman Rao Appa. This was first made known to General Wellesley and to Colonel Close after which Furkia was detained in Merich. You now mention that you have written on this subject to Ramchandra Appa (who?) will I suppose have written to you in reply. With respect to the guns in my possession Ramchandra Appa has already acquainted His Highness the Peshwa that they are ready to be delivered up when called for. You desire that I should proceed to attend upon the Peshwa. Madhoo Rao Baba my younger brother is at present with the troops in attendance on His Highness and I also am ready to perform any service required of me. My family has served His Highness the Peshwa for several generations and I have no intention of withdrawing my obedience. His Highness the Peshwa was formerly accustomed to write letters to my late father but the last two years I have received none, and my reputation has suffered on this account. I have desired my Vakeel Shridhar Pant to acquaint you who are my friend with this circumstance and I trust you will attend to his communication and use your influence in persuading His Highness to return to former practice by writing to me. Colonel Close interested himself in my affairs with His Highness's Government in consequence of the friendship subsisting between me and the British Government and I hope you will likewise do so. I shall do nothing without your advice.

Dispatched the 17th Rejub—what need be said more.

(A true translation)

(Sd.) R. CLOSE,
First Assistant.

Translation of a letter from Mr Elphinstone to Narain Ra of Merich, dated July 30th 1812

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 17th o Rejub July 27th

I called your attention to two demands to neither of which you have replied. As I wish you well I cannot but be concerned at this conduct. You write to me about your honour and consequence. Those points were provided for in the proposals which I sent to you. If you had agreed to them, your rank and honour would have been secured but you have not thought proper to do so. I have already informed you what course would be adopted in this event and it is unnecessary to repeat it. You may be sure that the British Government will act as it has professed. The Peshwa will still be here for 6 days, if you come within that time, it is well, otherwise I must pursue the course I formerly laid down. No other choice is left me.

(A true translation)

(Sd.) M. ELPHINSTONE,

Resident at Poona.

Camp at Pandharpur

August 1st 1812.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I yesterday received an answer to the letter which I wrote to Appa Sahib on his rejection of the terms. It is unnecessary to trouble your Lordship with a translation of the letter as it contains little more than professions of friendship and promise to repair to Pandharpore without delay.

2 The Vakeel who brought it assured me that Appa Sahib would march as yesterday and would endeavour to reach this place by Monday next but that as he was in an inferior state of health he should not be able to make long marches and that if he did not arrive within the time, he hoped it would be excused. To this I replied that if Appa Sahib were well on his way to this place I should have no doubt of his intention to come on, but that if he did not arrive till the Peshwa was gone His Highness would certainly take it amiss and would think that he had merely come to me in consequence of my requisition and had shown no desire to pay attention to His Highness. I then told the Vakeel that I had to manage with the Peshwa as well as with their master and that I must beg them to impress on Appa Sahib the necessity of his co-operating with me in conciliating the Peshwa's mind and bringing about an entire oblivion of past disagreements.

3 The Vakeels then stated some difficulties about the surrender of the usurped lands, they represented that it was necessary that the Peshwa's officers should go to Appa Sahib first and

receive from him orders for the surrender of the places. If they went direct to the lands, the people in charge would not give them up without orders from Appa Sahib and till he saw the officers he could not know what lands the Peshwa intended to require. I objected to this arrangement on account of its tendency to produce delay and still more on account of its being at variance with the demands I had made on Appa Sahib, a compliance with which, I said, was as essential for the Peshwa's satisfaction as his compliance with every other demand, for his personal attendance. I said there could be no difficulty about sending orders of surrender, Appa Sahib had only to issue such orders with regard to the lands mentioned in the list I had sent him and that if the Peshwa's officers appeared before any other place to demand the surrender of it, I should not complain if they met with a refusal.

4. I have this day learnt from a pair of hircarrahs of my own that Appa Sahib has crossed the Kistna and will be here tomorrow.

5. The Chief of Merich refused to come in as I had the honour to report in my last dispatch. He has now (either in consequence of the receipt of my letter announcing the approach of the troops or of some concert with Appa Sahib) altered his resolution and set out from Merich. He will reach Pandharpore tomorrow as will Chintaman Rao. I have received no answer from the Chief of Koorundwar nor do I hear any thing of his motions.

6. The Rajah of Kolhapore's Vakeel who had failed to accompany the Peshwa from Poona, arrived here yesterday and immediately visited me. He made no communication on the part of his Government at that visit but he returned today with two letters a translation of one of which is enclosed. The other was nearly to the same effect but referred to some message stated to have been received from me through a Portuguese at Poona and seems to have been intended to be delivered by the Portuguese. I never authorized the message alluded to, and shall now disavow all knowledge of it. All my intercourse with the Portuguese in question was confined to forbidding him to raise troops at Poona for the Rajah of Kolhapore.

7. Trimbak Rao the Vakeel mentioned in the Rajah's letter has arrived at this place and I hope to see him tomorrow. His arrival has considerably altered the appearance of the negotiation with Kolhapore and gives some ground for hope that all the objects alluded to in your Lordship's instructions may yet be obtained without difficulty.

8. Colonel Montresor will probably have commenced his march from Seroor today. He is to adopt the route on the left bank of the Bhima and cross that river at this place. Preparations are making to facilitate his passage of the river which is now at its utmost height and rapidity.

9. Notwithstanding the favourable appearance of this quarter at present, it does not appear to me that ^h of the troops could be safely countermanded. The

make promises with so little intention of fulfilling them, and recede from them so frequently even when they have been sincere, that no engagement of theirs can be relied on and in this particular case I think it more than probable that any appearance of slackness on the part of the British Government would have an instantaneous and unfavourable effect on the proceedings of the Jagirdars. For these reasons it will perhaps be advisable for Colonel Montresor to remain at an advanced position till the preliminary demands for the surrender of the lands and the attendance of the Jagirdars, be complied with if not till all disputes be finally adjusted and the contingents of the Jagirdars have assembled at Poona.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Sd) M. ELPHINSTONE,

Resident at Poona.

P S—I have the honour to enclose a translation of a letter which I have addressed to Bappoojee Ganesh Gokhla.

To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR
GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

*Translation of a letter from the Rajah of Kolhapore to
Mr Elphinstone, dated Rejub 10th or July 20th 1812.*

Mohammed Ibrahim Munshi and Vakeel, has represented to the presence full of splendour, that you had sent for him and told him that there was no advantage in war and that you therefore wished that an intelligent Agent should be sent to you at Poona, for the purpose of negotiating a peace, and that the troops should be withdrawn and hostilities suspended. He also said that you had written, to forbid Siddoojee Naik Nimbalkar Desai Zamundar of Neepancea disturbing the territories of the presence full of splendour, and to prevent his engaging in battle. Whoever disobeyed these injunctions was to be attacked by the Battalions of the Company. Thus the Munshi and Vakeel wrote and relying on the ancient respectful attachment (of the Company) I have stopped hostilities but the Neepauneeckar has taken the fort of Koodolee, and opened guns on Aklewaut and on the 7th of Rejub, he came with his troops. My pickets were encamped within a coss of Kolhapore, an action took place and my pickets were defeated. This being the case, do you send Battalions and settle the affair or at least send positive orders for the evacuation of my territories. Trimbak Rao has been dispatched to explain all other matters to you, you will attend to his verbal communications.

(A true translation)

(Sd) M. ELPHINSTONE,

Resident at Poona.

*Translation of a letter from Mr. Elphinstone to Bapoojee
Ganesh Gokhla, dated July 31st 1812.*

The first part contains the same statement of the confusions in the Carnatic and of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General's orders and intentions as that contained in the letter to Chintaman Rao and the other Chiefs. It then goes on as follows:—

You are one of the Sirdars. I therefore inform you of this affair. You are in the regular performance of your duties; and sunnuds are about to be granted to you for those lands which you now hold without authority. I have therefore no demand to make on you. Go on and serve the Peshwa with the same zeal and fidelity which you have hitherto displayed and be assured that no interference with your Jagir will be attempted. The British Government pledges itself to this, by the Peshwa's consent. You enjoy His Highness's favour and you know the friendship and constancy of the British Government; it is therefore unnecessary for me to say any thing more.

(A true translation)

M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 15.—Elphinstone reports his conversation with the Peshwa and the sentiments of the Peshwa towards the British, in consequence of their compelling the Jagirdars to submit to his authority. The bitterness with which he referred to his “four mutual enemies” viz., the Holkar, Muraba Fadnavis, Bala Furkia and Amrut Rao is of some interest. The status and prestige that he now enjoyed due to British support brings out the relative strength of the British and the Peshwa.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Camp at Pandharpur, 2nd August 1812.

I yesterday waited on the Peshwa by appointment at the house which His Highness occupies in Pandharpore.

2. His Highness's whole appearance and conversation indicated extraordinary satisfaction and he was profuse in expression of gratitude to the British Government for the interest which it had taken in his affairs. It would draw out this letter to an unnecessary length if I were to state all that His Highness said of the friendliness and disinterestedness of the conduct of the British Government on this occasion and the advantages both direct and indirect which he expected would accrue from it to his Government; but it affords a proof of his sincerity and shows the exaltation which the Peshwa feels to mention that he could not help

contrasting the present behaviour of the dependants of the Patwardhan family towards him with that which he used to experience on his former visits to Pandharpore, and dwelling on the mortification to which he used to be exposed from a principal agent of that family who was now among the most obsequious of the followers of his court. He afterwards spoke at great length on the general benefits of the alliance and the gratitude he felt to the British Government for the security which he enjoyed. This is a usual topic with His Highness but his language on this occasion was particularly warm and animated at the same time that I am thoroughly persuaded it was sincere. He said that the early part of his life had been spent in continual anxiety and apprehension, that he distrusted his allies, his ministers, and his relations and that, there was no body of those with whom he was connected of whose designs he was free from dread, but that the last ten years had passed without a doubt, a fear or even an uneasy thought. That his person and dominions were protected, his dignity was maintained and that he had enjoyed what he never had known before, the power and dignity which became a sovereign. He said that he should never cease to feel the liveliest sense of gratitude to the British Government from whose alliance he derived all these benefits; that he had in his closet the pictures of Colonel Close and that he never passed a day without looking at them and calling to mind the blessings which he enjoyed through their means. He then alluded to the kindness which he had received from the British Government since that time and did not fail to dwell with particular earnestness on his gratitude to your Lordship for this last great proof of the interest you took in his welfare. These observations were made at different times and frequently recurred to. The Peshwa uttered them without the least appearance of design and seemed only to be indulging in the unrestrained expression of his feelings.

3. I wish it were in my power to add that in this disclosure of his thoughts no sentiments escaped him but such as did him honour, but I am sorry to say that his exaltation in his own good fortune was mixed with triumph over his enemies, and with strong signs of that spirit of implacable revenge which had been inspired by the injuries His Highness has suffered and by the circumstances in which his character was formed. He seemed to be as much delighted with the prospect of having Baba Furkia in his power as with any of the solid advantages he is to derive from this arrangement. He enlarged on the hatred which Furkia bore him, said he was at the head of the party which imprisoned His Highness immediately after his accession and was one of the principal actors in the revolution which expelled him from his dominions in 1802 and that if he had it in his power he would now spare no effort to accomplish His Highness's ruin. I could not delay the truth of these remarks but I told the Peshwa that he ought to consider his triumph as complete when he got his enemy into his power and

ought afterwards to consult his own reputation by allowing Furkia every comfort consistent with the security of the person. The Peshwa assented to this and from his behaviour to Muraba Furnavees I have little doubt that he will act according to his professions. He then went on to describe the miserable end which had awaited Parasram Bhow who fell alive into the hands of the Rajah of Kolhapore and was put to death in cold blood. He said he did not mean to justify the Rajah's cruelty but that he was showing how Providence had avenged his wrongs. After Parasram Bhow's death, he had, he said, four mortal enemies, Holkar, Muraba Furnavees, Babba Furkia and Amrut Rao. The two first were dead and Furkia would soon be in his power but Amrut Rao was free and enjoyed a large pension from the British Government; he then said that it would be a proof of my regard for him if I would write to your Lordship and recommend that some severe measures should be taken with Amrut Rao. I told him that I could not venture to hold any language of the sort to your Lordship and added that it was entirely on His Highness's account that we had pensioned his brother. His Highness did not press his request any further but he continued to speak of Amrut Rao in a manner which satisfied me that his sentiments towards that prince have undergone no change since the time when His Highness was a fugitive at Bassein and Amrut Rao in possession of his capital. I endeavoured to soften him and to convince him that Amrut Rao bore him no ill will and had not the power to injure His Highness if he were so disposed but my discourse did not make the smallest impression.

4. I afterwards endeavoured to make His Highness sensible of the necessity of treating the Jagirdars who were coming in with kindness and of endeavouring by his conduct to efface the memory of past differences. The Peshwa promised to be guided implicitly by my advice but candidly confessed that he was far from feeling any thing like friendship or kindness towards any of the body. It is to be hoped that the new footing on which His Highness will stand with regard to the Jagirdars will in time effect an alteration in his sentiments towards them.

5. The Peshwa afterwards acquainted me that it was his intention to leave them on Tuesday (the 4th) and expressed a strong desire that I should accompany him. I represented that I thought it would be more convenient if I could remain here till every thing was settled but although I gave reasons which appeared to me strong they did not affect the Peshwa nor ever draw any argument from him for my accompanying him but he continued to beg that I would do so with so much earnestness that I began to suppose that His Highness entertained some suspicion which he did not choose to disclose and was averse to leaving me alone with the Jagirdars. I have since however ascertained that His Highness's anxiety for my accompanying him originates entirely in his apprehension of the consequences of being by himself among so many

of his enemies and knowing how much he is influenced by his fears. I shall not again refuse to attend him. I hope however to prevail on His Highness to put off his departure till Thursday the 6th.

6. I have at least received an answer from the Chief of Koorundwar of which the enclosed is a translation, he says that being utterly to proceed himself has sent his son to Pandharpur I believe this statement to be true. The Jagirdar has long been afflicted with the Palsy and has lost the use of his limbs. The Peshwa himself bore testimony to the truth of this story before I had received the Jagirdar's letter.

7 Chintaman Rao is expected in a few hours but Appa Sahib whose health is really deranged has been obliged to make short marches and is still 30 miles distant. He is accompanied by the Chief of Merich and the son of the Chief of Koorundwar

8 I had yesterday the honour to enclose a copy of my letter to Gokhla. The Peshwa of his own accord offered to complete that chieftain's Jagir by granting him sunnuds for the lands he held without authority. I of course acceded with the utmost satisfaction to an arrangement which has been discontinued ever since 1808. No demand therefore remained against Gokhla, but I thought it unreasonable that he should be deprived of the benefit of the British Guarantee merely because there was no ground of complaint against him. I therefore after consulting the Peshwa wrote the letter which was enclosed in my last dispatch.

9 I have been endeavouring for some days to prevail on His Highness to make addition to Appa Desai's Jagir which is liable at present to great defalcations. I shall have the honour to report fully on the subject hereafter and shall only at present observe that some arrangement of this nature is absolutely necessary both from considerations of policy and justice.

Translation of a letter from Trimbak Rao of Koorundwar to Mr Elphinstone under date the 17th of Rejub

I had the pleasure to receive your letter on the 14th instant, and have understood its contents. As likewise the six articles which were enclosed in it and the list of lands which you sent me as extracted from the records of the Peshwa's Government. You have required me to repair with expedition to Pandharpore to attend upon His Highness and to give up the lands which I hold without sunnuds. All which I have comprehended. As it has been customary for me to receive orders direct from His Highness the Peshwa I trust they will be sent to me. I shall be happy to comply with your wishes in waiting on His Highness but for the last four years I have been in a very bad state of health and Keshao Rao Baba my son shall therefore be sent at an auspicious moment.

On his meeting you the particulars of my situation will be made known to you. I understand what you write regarding all the negotiations affecting the present question being in your hands. There shall be no hesitation on my part in surrendering all the lands which I hold without authority in conformity with the desire expressed in your letter. On this subject also my son will explain matters to you. No reluctance shall appear on my part in obeying the authorities of His Highness the Peshwa, any more than that was shown by my ancestors. Balwant Rao Lachman will communicate with you on these points. I hope you will continue to gratify me by writing me friendly letters.

What need be said more.

Letter No. 16.—Elphinstone informs that all the Jagirdars had come to attend on the Peshwa at Pandharpur. The Peshwa was leaving the place the same day. He also reports his talk with the Vakils of Kolhapur regarding the cession of Malwa and encloses a copy of his letter to the Rajah of Kolhapur requesting him for its cession.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Camp at Pandharpur, 4th August 1812.

I have the honour to request your Lordship that all the Jagirdars who were summoned to this place have arrived in Camp with the exception of the Chief of Koorundwar whose infirmities have really prevented his appearing and whose son came in yesterday evening. They have all waited on the Peshwa and been formally received.

2. The Jagirdars now present are Gokhla, Chintaman Rao, Appa Sahib, Narain Rao of Meritch, Madhao Rao Rastia and the son of the Desai of Kittoor. It is in the name of this person and not of his father that the Peshwa's grant of Serinjami lands is made out. Appa Desai was not summoned being fully employed in the war with Kolhapore.

3. I have had an interview with the Kolhapur Vakeels, the result of which was by no means satisfactory. The new Vakeel has no powers and no instructions, except to tell me in general terms that his master is ready to comply with any arrangement, the British Government may propose, to request me to let him know what are its wishes and in the mean time to urge me to put a stop to operations on the part of Appa Desai. This Chieftain has opened 12 Guns on the fort of Akkenaut, and has probably taken it before this time. I did every thing in my power to ascertain whether the Rajah had any other motive for sending a Vakeel besides those I have stated, and to discover what sacrifices

he was prepared to make, but finding that the Vakeel could give me no information, I told him that in compliance with his master's request, I would write a letter containing the outline of an arrangement which the British Government would effect, but that it was extremely unreasonable to expect that I should stop the proceedings of Appa Desai till I had some proof that the Rajah was more disposed to agree to an amicable adjustment with the Peshwa than he had been hitherto.

4. I have accordingly addressed a letter to the Rajah of which I have the honour to enclose a translation

5. It requires the Rajah to submit to the arbitration of the British Government and to give up Malwaun for the security of the British Vessels on the coast. Should the Raja agree to the adjustment with the Peshwa, but refuse Malwaun, I should proceed on the arbitration and inform the Rajah that I had referred the other subject to your Lordship, taking care to give him no expectation of the British Government's renouncing its claims. If the Rajah refuses to accede to any part of the proposal, I shall give him a limited time to consider, and on the expiration of it, I shall acquaint him that Chikori and Manoulee must henceforth be considered as belonging to the Peshwa and under the protection of the British Government. I shall offer on the Peshwa's part to give up all recent acquisitions and call on the Rajah to engage not to infringe this arrangement. If the Rajah refuses it will be expedient to move the troops and pursue operations against him till sufficient security can be obtained for his remaining quiet in future and till he has agreed to cede Malwaun at least to the British Government.

6. It may perhaps appear sufficient in case the Raja rejects the proposals which are to be made to him, to declare Chikory and Manowly to belong to the Peshwa and to be under our protection, but this declaration might not deter the Rajah from attacking those districts in future and as the troops are now in the field it appears desirable to obtain every security and to make every practicable arrangement to preclude the necessity of moving them again. I am induced to anticipate these remote contingencies by the idea that there may be time for me to receive your Lordship's commands if you should wish any alteration in the plan as far as relates to the more advanced stages of the negotiation. With regard to Malwaun in particular, I should be happy to receive your Lordship's orders. It appears very evident from my instructions that it is not your Lordship's intention to make Malwaun the occasion of a war but in case hostilities were commenced on other accounts, your Lordship would probably not wish them to be discontinued without the acquisition of that harbour and the forts which surrounded it.

7. The Peshwa marches for Poona this evening, I intend to send off my tents tomorrow and to follow His Highness in company with the Minister and all the Jagirdars except Gokhla.

P. S.

I have again seen the Kolhāpore Vakeels since the above dispatch was finished. The letter to the Rajah was read to them and I fully explained the objects to which it referred and the principles on which the British Government intended to act. I was particularly careful to explain that the demand of Malwaun was entirely unconnected with the arbitration of the Peshwa's disputes and that the Rajah's consent or refusal to cede that port would not in the least affect the decision of the British Government on his claims to Chickoree or Maunowlee. I however gave them to understand that if the Rajah refused to cede Malwaun, the claims of the British Government would remain in full force. The Vakeels assured me that they were certain the Rajah would agree to both my proposals but one of them said the Rajah had claims to many other countries besides Chickory and Manowly which had been wrested from him at various times by different princes and chiefs and that he would expect the British Government to procure the restoration of them all. I answered this by explicitly declaring that the British Government would interfere with none of those claims. The British Government professed only to settle the Rajah's present disputes, not to restore his dominions to their ancient limits. The object of the present arrangement was to establish tranquillity in the southern countries and it would be inconsistent with the spirit of it, to renew forgotten quarrels by reviving ancient claims. The Vakeels still professed themselves satisfied that the Rajah would agree but said they would consult together tonight and let me know the result tomorrow forenoon.

*Translation of a letter from Mr. Elphinstone to the
Rajah of Kolhapore, dated August 4th 1812.*

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter which was brought to me by your Vakeel Trimbak Rao who was introduced to me by Munshi Mohammed Ibrahim. Your Vakeels inform me that in consequence of your war with Appa Desai you are exposed to great difficulties, that you are very desirous that the British Government should interfere to relieve you from them, and that in order to attain this object you are prepared to adopt any course I may point out to you. It is now some months since your Vakeel Mohammed Ibrahim, held similar language to me or spoke in a more earnest manner; as the British Government has always felt a regard for you and has been anxious to restore tranquillity to that quarter, and as I placed confidence in your Vakeel's sincerity I listened to his representations. I pointed out to him the necessity of referring your disputed claims to Chinckoree and Manowlee, to the arbitration of the British Government which was resolved to investigate them and to decide with impartiality, assigning them to you, if they proved to be justly yours or to His Highness the Peshwa if they appeared to be his. I likewise mentioned to your Vakeel the long standing claims which the British Government has had upon your Highness, the heavy losses to which it had been

exposed and the necessity there was to coming to a final settlement upon them at a time when the British Government was determined to leave no ground of difference on confusion in the southern countries. In order to facilitate the progress of this arrangement, I lost no time in writing to His Highness the Peshwa, who was then at Kopergaon, proposing that His Highness should confine the adjustment of his claims on Chickoree and Manowlee to the arbitration of the British Government as had already been proposed to your Highness. After the Peshwa's return to Poona he gave his consent to this measure but what was my surprise to find that my proposal, which had been made at the pressing solicitation of your Vakeel remained neglected and utterly unnoticed by your Highness. It is now some months since those transactions took place and no answer has ever been received from your Highness. The British Government would now be justified in neglecting the representations now made on your Highness's part, but I am urged by the relation your Vakeels give of the embarrassed state of your affairs and by the necessity which now prevails for restoring permanent peace to all this country (a measure which your Highness will have been informed is already in progress) again to listen to your communications. I have endeavoured in vain to ascertain from your Vakeels whether they have been authorized to make any precise propositions on the part of your Highness, but seeing they have no such authority I shall proceed to state to your Highness some measures which the British Government had in contemplation and which I had some thoughts of writing to you before I received your Highness's letter now brought to me by your Vakeel Trimbak Rao. The British Government proposes to settle with impartial justice the disputes which have so long prevailed between your Highness and the Peshwa respecting the districts of Chickoree and Manowlee. The Peshwa's claim to the other districts which he has lately occupied will also be examined and if no good claim is established the districts will be restored to you. You need be under no apprehension of losing the districts of Chickoree and Manowlee in the event of an arbitration from any undue partiality of the British Government to the Peshwa. To those who know the principles which actuate the British Government no such suspicion would occur and all men must be convinced that no Government would be induced by a trifling temptation to give up a well earned reputation for justice. The British Government demands from your Highness the repayment of the heavy losses sustained from your subjects by its trade, an account of which will hereafter be sent to you amounting to nearly 50 lacs of Rupees and it further demands good security that no such injuries as was formerly suffered shall be hereafter offered to any Vessel bearing British Colours. But should your Highness be unable to satisfy these demands on account of their large amount, the British Government (desirous as far as is compatible with an assertion of its own just rights to relieve your Highness from this difficulty) will satisfy itself with substantial security against future piracies and for

this purpose requires the cession to it of the port of Malwaun by which alone it can be enabled to protect its trade from piratical depredations. By ceding that port and giving good security you will satisfy the British Government on that head. If the preceding stipulations meet with your Highness's consent, the British Government engage to secure to you the undisturbed possession of all the country remaining to you. It will charge itself with the guarantee of all your possessions after having decided respecting the disputed districts of Chickoree and Manowlee, etc. These propositions are in every respect reasonable and their justice cannot be disputed. It is necessary to add that whether your Highness agrees or not to the terms now offered, the British Government is determined to protect the dominion of its ally the Peshwa from all injury, and should your Highness decline the interposition of the British Government which is now offered in compliance with the earnest entreaties of your Vakeels, the British Government will then have no means of investigating your rights and from the nature of its engagement with the Peshwa, no alternative will be left to the British Government but that of putting an immediate stop to hostilities between you and His Highness the Peshwa, and of securing to the latter the whole of his acquisitions as they stand at present in such manner as to preclude their being wrested from him hereafter. I have also to impress it on your Highness's mind that your refusal to satisfy the demands of the British Government will in no respect diminish its right to enforce them when it shall think fit so to do. It is very desirable that they should be adjusted immediately by amicable negotiation but at all events some means must be adopted to restore tranquillity to the southern countries and to correct the system of irregularity and confusion which has so long prevailed.

(A true translation)

(Sd.) M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 17.—Elphinstone reports that the Rajah of Kolhapur had been intimidated by the Peshwa to withhold the cession of Malwan to the English. The Resident thereupon wrote a letter of protest to the Peshwa, a copy of which is enclosed.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, dated August 13th 1812.

I had the honour to report to your Lordship that the Kolhapur Vakeels had assured me that their master was willing to give up Malwaun but had said that they would speak more clearly on the subject after they should have consulted together.

2 The Vakeel with whom I have been in the habits of communicating came to me next morning without Trimbak Rao and told me that on full consideration of the subject he and his colleague were agreed that the Rajah would refuse to give up Malwaun, this, he said would not originate in any reluctance of the Rajah's, who he affirmed, would be highly satisfied to give it up on such terms but in the strong aversion which the Peshwa had shown to the Raja's agreeing to the cession.

3 Though surprised at the insincerity of the Peshwa's conduct on this occasion I did not think it expedient to let the Vakeels see the extent of the division which existed between the British Government and His Highness, on this point I therefore slightly mentioned to the Vakeel that the Peshwa had made some opposition to the demand of Malwaun on the ground that it, and all Kolhapore formed part of his dominions and then proceeded to enquire at what time the aversion to which the Vakeel alluded had been observed, and how he came to the knowledge of it. To this the Vakeel replied that it had been formally communicated to him by the Peshwa's ministers shortly before His Highness left Ponna and that those persons had told him in distinct terms that we would make certain territorial demands but that the Rajah need pay no attention to them and indeed that the Peshwa would be highly offended if he did.

4 I now suffered the subject of the Peshwa's opposition to drop, and requested the Vakeel to urge the Rajah to attend to his own interests, pointing out the undoubted right we had to insist on indemnification for our losses and the ease with which we might take possession of Malwaun, on the Rajah's refusal of satisfaction, should such a measure appear desirable or expedient. The Vakeel agreed and soon after withdrew.

5 As the Vakeel has an obvious motive for separating our interests from the Peshwa's and also for making the cession of Malwaun appear a great sacrifice for his master to make, I did not venture to take any step on his information alone but applied myself to discovering through other channels what had passed between the Kolhapore Vakeel and the Minister, the result of my enquiries was a full confirmation of the Vakeel's statement and it appears that after the Peshwa had received my promise that the British Government would not suffer its claims to interfere with the arrangement of His Highness's disputes but would give them up for the present if the Rajah appeared very averse to any arrangement of which they made a part, His Highness's minister took such steps as would secure the disappointment of our views by rendering our claims a matter of contest.

6 I have no doubt that it will appear to your Lordship absolutely necessary to take serious notice of the conduct of the Peshwa's Government in this affair. I am aware that your Lordship will regret that the negotiation regarding Malwaun should

have been made a matter of so much importance but I trust you will perceive that it has been raised into that situation by unexpected occurrences without any departure on my part from your Lordship's instructions. When it was first mentioned to the Peshwa, His Highness opposed it on grounds which could not have been admitted without acknowledging the extensive pretensions of the Mahratta State which the British Government has taken so much pains to combat. The only course that remained was to take some measure which might remove the Peshwa's apprehensions of our urging the cession, without implying an admission of the justice of His Highness's claims; this course I adopted with the Peshwa's concurrence, and was prepared to give up the demand if it were resisted by the Rajah of Kolhapore, when I had the mortification to discover that the Peshwa's Durbar was counteracting our negotiations by intrigues with the public enemy of His Highness's own state.

7. It is impossible to take notice of this transaction without treating it as an affair of great importance and it would be impolitic to dissemble the knowledge of it even if it were possible to do so. The Peshwa is certainly at this moment highly satisfied with the conduct of the British Government, yet he has not scrupled to engage in an intrigue against it, which would better become an enemy than an ally; or if he engaged in it during the disputes at Ponna and before he felt the full advantage he was to derive from the conduct of the British Government, at least he has since then adopted no measures for preventing the bad effects of his former misconduct. It would therefore be vain to expect that he should abstain from intriguing against us at any future period unless he be deterred from it by the certainty of detection and the dread of the displeasure of the British Government. It is certainly not only possible but probable that this intrigue may have originated in Sadashiv Mankeshwar and not in His Highness but this only renders it the more necessary to adopt some measure that may work on the fears of that Minister who I am inclined to believe is incapable of being influenced by any more generous motive.

8. For these reasons I have addressed a letter a translation of which is enclosed, to His Highness in which I have remonstrated against the conduct of His Highness's Court and pointed out the treachery of the measure complained of, as well as the bad consequences of it to His Highness himself. I thought it prudent to show no suspicion of the Peshwa's being concerned in the intrigue nor indeed am I at all convinced that he has any share in it.

9. I delayed addressing your Lordship in conformity to the promise contained in my letter to the Peshwa till I should be able to accompany my statements of the case with His Highness's explanation. I have now received his answer which imputes the transaction entirely to the minister who again defends himself on the ground that he made the offensive communication to the

Kolhapore Vakeel, before the Peshwa had consented to our arbitration, I shall have the honour to report on this subject to your Lordship as soon as I have had a personal interview with the Peshwa, who is now entirely occupied by a great Hindu festival.

10. His Highness the Peshwa arrived here on the 10th and the Southern Jagirdars will all be in Poona by tomorrow or next day.

Translation of a letter from Mr. Elphinstone to His Highness the Peshwa, dated Camp on the Neera August.....1812.

After the satisfaction and cordiality which I experienced at my last meeting with your Highness it gives me sincere concern to be obliged to address your Highness in the language of remonstrance and complaint but my duty to my own Government does not permit me to hesitate in undertaking this disagreeable office. After a variety of discussions respecting the Southern Jagheerdars and the Rajah of Kolhapore, your Highness was pleased to consent to the arbitration of your claims on those powers by the British Government and to invest me with full powers to investigate and arrange them all. In undertaking the settlement of these claims the British Government was solely actuated by a wish for your Highness's prosperity. It voluntarily exposed itself to great expense and trouble to bring about the adjustment of many disputes in which it had no interest, except that which it derived from their great importance to your Highness. In the negotiation with Kolhapore (the only one in which the British Government had a direct concern) it agreed to make its interests subservient to those of your Highness and to sacrifice them if it were necessary for your Highness's advantage.

All the other disputes have been put into a train of arrangement and it gave me the greatest pleasure to perceive that the proceedings which it fell to me to pursue on the part of the British Government were entirely satisfactory to your Highness, and that your Highness was fully sensible of the liberal and disinterested conduct of the British Government in authorising them. There only remained the affair of Kolhapore in which I relied upon your Highness's cordial co-operation as well from the conduct of the British Government and the warm and friendly sentiments which your Highness had expressed regarding it, as from the express concurrence which your Highness was pleased to give to the proposed arrangement. For this reason, although fully prepared to give up the objects of my own Government if such a sacrifice was requisite for the security of your Highness's interests, I did not expect to meet with much difficulty in realizing the just demands of both Governments. Your Highness may therefore judge of my surprise when I was informed that the Rajah was willing to agree to all my demands but that your Highness's Durbar had strongly advised him to resist those which tended to the advantage of the British and had even threatened him with its displeasure

in the event of his compliance. I confess that it was with difficulty that I could bring myself to believe what I had heard and it was not till it had been confirmed beyond all doubt by other circumstances that I could persuade myself that your Highness's Darbar was capable of a proceeding so inconsistent with the friendship and fidelity which your Highness has always shown towards the British Government and I can now account for it only on the supposition that it has been adopted without your Highness's knowledge and that it will meet with your extreme displeasure when you are informed of it. Being however satisfied of the fact, I think it becomes me to state it to your Highness and frankly to inform your Highness of my sentiments on the occasion, after which I shall hope to be honoured with any explanation your Highness may be pleased to offer before I proceed to make a communication of so serious a nature to my Government. I must first beg your Highness not to consider me as imputing the conduct of which I complain to your Highness personally. The following reasons convince me that your Highness has no share in it. The fidelity which your Highness has shown towards the British Government for a series of years induces me to believe that every measure that originated in you would be dictated by the spirit of friendship, while the conduct of which I complain, would only become an open enemy. It is unnecessary to say how incompatible it is with the character of an ally, and a bare narrative of the transaction will show how little it could be expected from your Highness at a time when the last measures of the British Government had strengthened and improved the existing friendship. The claims of the British Government on the Rajah of Kolhapore are undisputed though they have hitherto been urged with unexampled moderation; and the British Government could easily have secured their adjustment had it been content to pursue its own interest without attending to that of your Highness; but your Highness also had disputes with the Rajah of Kolhapore and the anxiety of the British Government for the settlement of your dominions induced it not only to undertake the adjustment of those disputes but to promise that it would forego its own claims for the present, if they should be found to interfere with yours. Your Highness was thus secured from all chance of inconvenience and the attainment of every legitimate object of your Government was rendered certain. In this state of things, obstructions were created by your Highness's Durbar to the settlement of the just and moderate demands of the British Government; but for this interference, I am persuaded, the Rajah would have satisfied those demands without hesitation, or had he refused, the British Government supposing it free from engagements to your Highness, could have obtained its own satisfaction by force of arms, but in the present state of our engagements, if the intrigues had not come to my knowledge, the Rajah would have rejected the demand for Maulwaun and I should have given it up on account of my promise to your Highness. It would therefore have been the anxiety of the British Government for your Highness's interest alone, which put it in

the power of its enemies to injure its cause. These circumstances are sufficient to satisfy me that the measure complained of is entirely unknown to your Highness and the following considerations convince me that it originated in some secret enemy of your state. The communication made in your Highness's name and from your Durbar would if you should not prove that it was unauthorised, entirely release the British Government from the engagements with which it had bound itself and leave it at liberty to pursue its claims without reference to your Highness's interest. If those claims were not satisfied, it might conquer Kolhapore and proceed to advance claims to the disputed districts on its own part, or if the well known moderation of the British Government renders the above course of policy improbable however justified by the circumstances of the case, the British Government might at least close with the offers which it has more than once received from the Rajah of Kolhapore and accept a large cession of territory from that prince as the price of its protection against all aggression from whatever quarter; such are the proceedings which the British Government might adopt with respect to Kolhapore. With regard to your Highness I know that it could scarcely be brought to think of any measures which were inconsistent with perfect harmony and good understanding, but your Highness will perceive how much the author of this intrigue is your enemy if you will consider the dangerous consequences to which such a step would lead if its ill effect were not corrected by the candor and moderation of the British Government. One of those ill consequences must even now be felt because its operation is out of our control. Foreign states must believe that opposition of interests and a spirit of counteraction exists between the two allied Governments and they will be led to suppose that each is indifferent to any injuries which the other may suffer. Which state will suffer most from the opinion, I leave your Highness to judge.

I rely upon your Highness for excusing the plainness with which I have stated facts, which it would have been unfriendly towards your Highness as well as culpable towards the British Government for me to have concealed. What measures your Highness should adopt to remove the unfavourable impression which they must make on Lord Minto's mind it is not for me to point out, for I consider this as too important a case for me to act in it without specific orders from the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General, but I beg your Highness to believe that I shall not fail to make the most ample representation to His Lordship of any explanation you may offer for the purpose of preserving His Lordship's friendship undiminished and that it will give me the sincerest pleasure if your Highness can explain the transactions to which I have alluded in such a manner as may remove all grounds of complaint against your Highness. Your Highness will be pleased to observe that the present affair does not derive its consequence from any anxiety of the British Government to obtain possession of Malwaun, a point which the British Government was

fully prepared under certain contingencies to give up. The importance of the measure now complained of arises from the injury done to the confidence which ought to subsist between the two states and from the indignity which is offered to the British Government by the deception which has been practised upon it.

(A true translation)

(Sd.) M. ELPHINSTONE,

Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 18.—This letter—a copy of which is sent to the Resident at Nagpur—contains the information that Rajah Mahipat Ram's private treasure of 6 Lacs had been taken by the Nizam. The Nizam had shown the favour of allowing Munir-ul-Mulk and Raja Chandulal to sit in his Khawasis on his two sides when he rode out. The Nizam's brutality by himself beating to death some of his maid servants is mentioned.

FROM—HENERY RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDER-
ABAD.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-
GENERAL.

Hyderabad, dated 31st July 1812.

At the time Mahipat Ram's family were removed from Hyderabad, and sent to Benares a Guard was placed by the Nizam's orders over the house they had resided in, but none of the property was removed until lately when a strict search being made, six lacks of rupees in silver were found buried in different places, and were immediately sent to the Nizam's private treasury. The Nizam desired Rajah Chandulal to tell me that this money had been discovered and taken possession of by him and a few days afterwards I received an intimation that the Nizam himself wished to see me and speak to me on the subject.

2. When I went to the palace I found the Nizam as gloomy and reserved as usual. He told me that he had taken possession of Mahipat Ram's property to which I replied that Mahipat Ram had been a traitor and rebel and that His Highness would of course do whatever he thought fit with his property.

3. I spoke to the Nizam on several general topics, but although he answered me very civilly, and did not show anything like anger or dissatisfaction in his manner the effort of appearing and speaking in public was evidently painful to him and I therefore made my visit as short as I could.

4. A few days after I last had the honour of addressing your Lordship, I received a note from Rajah Chandulal written by the Nizam's order expressing His Highness's desire that all private and domestic affairs and matters of religion should prosper under the benefit of the alliance and that all subjects of displeasure should be removed. Neither the Rajah nor I could at all conjecture what the Nizam meant by this desire or why he made any reference to matters of religion which had never been mentioned between us and in which he knew we take no concern. But as it was probable that the strange communication proceeded in some measure from the fears of our designs which Munirul Moolk had certainly instilled into the Nizam's mind, I endeavoured to set him at ease by desiring the Rajah in my answer to assure His Highness that all political and domestic affairs and matters of religion did prosper and that God forbid there should be any subject of displeasure.

5. I have not since heard anything more on the subject, but my note joined to the conversation I had with the Nizam at my former audience seemed to have a very good effect in restoring Chandulal to the favour of which Munirul Moolk had contrived in a great measure to deprive him, for a few days afterwards, the Nizam having left the city in state to go to one of his gardens without any body on his elephant with him, stopped on the road, and before Munirul Moolk, and the whole court called the Rajah to him and desired him to get into the Khawasee a distinction which had never before been conferred either upon the Rajah himself or upon any other person holding the situation. Munirul Moolk has since prevailed upon the Nizam to restore him to his seat in the Khawasee but he has not been able to remove the Rajah. Whenever the Nizam appears abroad now one side of his Khawasee is occupied by Munirul Moolk and the other by the Rajah and in every other instance he has treated the Rajah with great kindness and consideration.

6. A few days ago, I received a paper from Rajah Chandulal saying he had been directed by the Nizam to communicate to me the conversations relating to the Nawab Begum, to the Sooroor Afza Begum, to his cooks, and to the servants who crowded about him. The Rajah told me that this paper had been given to him by the Nizam who had directed that my answer might be immediately reported to him.

7. The Nawab Begum was the principal wife of Azimul Omrah. She died lately in the house of Shah Yarul Mulk who is married to her grand daughter, a half sister of the Nizam's wife the Juban Parwar Begum. Shah Yarul Moolk asserts that she bequeathed all her property to him but the Nizam seems disposed to claim it for himself. The Sooroor Ufza Begum was also married to Azimul Mulk. She is still living but her property or the greatest part of it was seized by Meer Allum in 1804. The cooks the Nizam speaks of lately offended him by not dressing his dinner

to his taste and he directed formal written engagements to be taken from them declaring that they would never be guilty of a similar offence in future. The servants who crowd about him are the Khidmatgars. The number that used to be in attendance was forty but he has now reduced it to twenty. The Nizam's disposition to melancholy and solitude has been growing upon him for some years past and he is now always disturbed when he sees many people near him. If this were the only indication he gave of a disordered mind he would be more to be pitied than abhorred, but unhappily for himself and for those whose misfortune it is to be about him, his rage sometimes breaks out into the most fatal paroxysms. He very lately with his own hands beat two of his women with such horrid cruelty that one of them actually expired under his blow and the other survived only a few hours. A similar instance of his barbarity was reported in one of my former addresses to your Lordship.

8. Rajah Chandulal could not give me any explanation of the Nizam's meaning in reference he desired to be made to me and I am unable to conjecture any myself unless the mind of the Soooror Ufza Begum, the cooks and Khidmatgars, was used merely as a cloak and the (indistinct) to the Nawab Begum was intended to ascertain whether I would interfere in the event of his endeavouring to seize her property from Shah Yarul Moolk. The family of Azimul Omrah has always been considered to be peculiarly under the protection of the British Government. I thought it prudent therefore to evade the question by desiring Rajah Chandulal to tell the Nizam merely that I had received the paper and understood its contents; and His Highness did not call for any other answer. Shah Yarul Moolk has frequently applied to me to assist him in keeping possession of the Nawab Begum's property but I have told him positively that I cannot interfere and have recommended him to consult Chandulal and abide entirely by his advice. I have also mentioned the subject to the Rajah and have taken every opportunity of impressing upon him the prudence of conciliating the principal persons of rank and consequence under the Government.

No. 1

Translation of a note from Rajah Chandulal to H. Russell, Esquire, Resident at Hyderabad, received, February the 7th, 1812.

His Highness the Nizam has directed me to state this to you. "Let political and domestic affairs and matters of religion prosper under the benefits of the alliance between the two Governments, and let all subjects of displeasure be removed." This has been written by the desire of His Highness. I beg that you will favour me with a satisfactory answer.

No. 2

Translation of a note from Henry Russell, Esqr., Resident at Hyderabad to Rajah Chandulal, dated 7th February 1812.

I have had the honour to receive your note informing me, recapitulate the Rajah's note.

I request that you will represent to His Highness in reply that it always has been and always will be my anxious wish that Political and domestic affairs and matters of religion should prosper. By the blessing of Providence they do prosper in every way and God forbid there should be any subjects of displeasure. I had indeed the honour of representing this together with the assurance of my sincere attachment at my last audience of His Highness.

(True translations)

(Sd.) H. RUSSELL,
Resident at Hyderabad.

True copy.

C. RUSSELL,
First Assistant.

Letter No 19.—The letter mentions the discussion that Elphinstone had with the Peshwa's Ministers and Bhau Saheb regarding the former's complicity in the refusal of the cession of land required by the British from Kolhapur state. It also contains information about the attitude of the Southern Maratha Jagirdars regarding the surrender of land they had usurped from the Peshwa.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, dated the 17th August 1812.

I had applied for an audience of the Peshwa to receive his answer on the subject discussed in my letter to His Highness, but the Minister having requested me to visit him before I went to the Peshwa I waited on him yesterday evening.

2. I began the conversation by a statement if all that had past on the Kolhapore question, pointing out that I had uniformly rejected all the Rajah's solicitations for our interference though supported by offers of territorial cessions, till the intended arrangement of the southern countries rendered it necessary to interfere; I then recounted all the proceeding with the Vakeel that have already been reported in my dispatches to your Lordship, laying

particular stress on the moderation of the British Government in abstaining from pressing its just claims till it should obtain the Peshwa's concurrence or till it should appear that he was obstinately bent on refusing it and then contrasted that conduct with the unfair means which the Minister had used to support the unreasonable pretensions of his Government. I then repeated that the whole affair must be submitted to your Lordship and that I was anxious to give the Minister an opportunity of explaining or defending his conduct.

3. The Minister replied that all which I had said would justly apply to him if he had been guilty of the conduct attributed to him but that I should see by the statement he was going to make that the charge brought against him was entirely unfounded; he then gave account of his intercourse with the Kolhapore Vakeel, and said that our affairs had been touched on at two, out of the three interviews that had taken place between him and that Agent. That at the second interview he had spoken to the Vakeel of our claims not with a view to prevent our obtaining our demands but with the express design of contributing to our success. The Minister stated the following to have been the substance of his advice; that the Rajah should satisfy all our demands without delay; that if he failed, we were a powerful nation and able to do ourselves right, that we would not fail to send out Military expeditions and seize on such parts of the Rajah's dominions as we required either for indemnification or security and that, that would expose the Rajah to danger and would at least occasion a loss of territory to him and draw down on him the censure of the Poona Government for having alienated a part of the dominions of the Mahratta Empire. He afterwards entered into many explanations intended to show that it was not for his interest to have acted the part attributed to him and that he was incapable of such duplicity if his interest had required it.

4. Some conversation ensued after this, in which I said that the Vakeel had told me his story twice, once at Pandharpore and once after my return to Poona, that in the second conference he had shown an evident desire to retract his statement at the expense of his veracity, yet even then, he never attempted to alter the words of the prohibition or to diminish its strength but contented himself with assuring me that it had not been intended against the British Government but against that of Goa, or against Mr. DeSouza a Portuguese, who was raising troops for the Rajah; I also pointed out the consistency which subsisted between the language which the Vakeel attributed to the Minister and the Minister's own language in his former discussions with me; those discussions I observed were unknown to the Vakeel and consequently it was not in his power to have invented a fiction which should agree so well with the reality. I further remarked that the Rajah of Kolhapore's behaviour could only be rendered consistent or probable by a supposition that a prohibition like that mentioned by the Vakeel had taken place; otherwise, it was impossible to

account for the change in the Rajah's language, who after pressing the British Government to accept a part of his territory and to settle his disputes had now in the extremity of his distress refused to agree to this cession when demanded.

5. The Bhow accounted for all this by supposing that the Vakeel had invented an artful falsehood for the purpose of embroiling the Peshwa with the British Government. He said that it was plain that he could not have instigated the Rajah to refuse our demands because he knew that we would not be put off with a refusal but would use the power we undoubtedly possessed to obtain our rights; and enquired of what advantage it would be to him to prevent our acquiring the territory we desired even if it were in his power to do so. I said that the Bhow knew that in consequence of the promise I had made to the Peshwa, a refusal from the Rajah of Kolhapore would be sufficient to make me drop the demand, and as to the advantage he was to derive from preventing our acquiring territory from Kolhapore, I could only guess that it was the same advantage which he expected to gain by openly opposing the same acquisition in his conference with me.

6. After a good deal of discussion of this kind, I told the Minister that his arguments had not succeeded in removing the impression I had received of his having used the language attributed to him by the Vakeel but that it did not rest with me to decide on the question, that I should report all the Minister had said, as well as the arguments which had come to my knowledge on the other side, to your Lordship, and that you would form your decision on those grounds.

7. The Bhow then altered his language and began to talk of the friendship between the Governments and the necessity of overlooking any little faults into which a friend might unintentionally fall and endeavoured to prevail on me not to report my suspicion to your Lordship adding that I ought not readily to give credit to such accusations against him. I replied that I was so far from taking up this accusation lightly, that it was not till I had examined and considered of it for a week that I took any notice of it; that it was impossible for me to conceal such a circumstance from your Lordship, and that all I could do was to state his explanations fully and fairly and leave your Lordship to form your own opinion. I added that your Lordship would be disposed to consider his case as favourably as possible; that if this were the first time, he had secretly counteracted the British Government, your Lordship would be disposed to doubt the truth of the accusation, but that the Minister must recollect that this was by no means the case. That circumstances had occurred in former times which I neither wished to review nor remember, but that in the short time that I had been at Poona the Minister must be conscious that he had more than once engaged in intrigues with foreign states unknown to the British Government and contrary to its wishes or interests; and that, as this was the case it would be negligence to overlook an opposition which appeared to be systematic.

8. The Minister now had recourse to protestations that he would conduct himself like a sincere friend of the British Government for the future and expressed himself with so much earnestness that I at last told him that your Lordship certainly did not wish to have any differences with the allies or their Ministers; that if you were satisfied of his being really disposed to maintain the alliance you would be inclined to overlook any errors into which he might be led but that if he gave ground for supposing that he was an enemy to the British Government, he would not leave your Lordship the choice of treating him like a friend. The Minister did not attempt to deny that he had given cause for supposing that he was ill inclined to the British Government, but renewed his assurances of future good conduct and I concluded by promising him to make a favourable report of the sentiments he had professed.

9. I then desired to know when I was to see the Peshwa and the Minister attempted to persuade me that it was unnecessary for me to see His Highness at all, but I said that your Lordship would never approve of my omitting to communicate personally with His Highness on an affair of so much importance. He then fixed the 19th for my audience.

10. I have since seen the Rajah of Kolhapore's Vakeel again who told me that the Minister's speech to him contained an injunction not to give the Europeans a span of land on pain of the Peshwa's displeasure.

11. The Minister's intrigues with Holkar during the time when Captain Sydenham had charge of this Residency must be in the recollection of Government as must likewise be his unauthorised interference with a foreign state in the affair of Garrah Kota; his intrigue with Chintaman Rao though not so immediately connected with foreign politics, was also contrary to the spirit of the Peshwa's connection with the British Government; but as he seems to be thoroughly alarmed on this occasion, I have great hopes that he will behave with more circumspection in future for some time at least.

12. After the close of the conversation reported above, I enquired into the progress which had been made by the Jagirdars in surrendering their usurped lands and found that most of those claimed from Chintaman Rao had been delivered up but that no report had been received from the officers sent to occupy those held by the other Jagirdars. I therefore pressed the Minister to hasten his agents in all cases except that of Appa Desai in which I recommended delay on the ground of the real hardships to which he was exposed (as stated in his letter to me) and also on the ground of his being at present engaged in a troublesome and expensive war. I further recommended an addition being made to Appa Desai's Jagir sufficient to make up the deficiencies in that already assigned to him; on which the Bhow promised that such an arrangement should be made and to such extent as I should advise.

13 I then mentioned to the Bhow that I had heard of preparations which were going on at Merich for the purpose of putting that place in a state of defence, and that concluding them to have been occasioned by the alarm of the Jagirdar at the neighbourhood of our troops I had sent for his Vakeel and given him such promises and explanations as I thought sufficient to set him at ease. The Minister showed some surprise and disappointment at this piece of information, said that it would have been better to have kept the Jagirdar in fear and uncertainty, and spoke in such a manner as led me to think that he entertained some design of resuming Merich, which, though it has been in the Patwardhan family since they first got Jagirs, is only held in Cumawus and consequently is liable to resumption at pleasure. In this belief I took occasion to speak of the resumption of Merich as a thing perfectly out of the question, nouncing that it was not mentioned in the paper of claims which the Peshwa had sent to me and I to the Jagirdars, and that such a resumption would be impolitic unless it were preceded by some gross misconduct on the part of the Jagirdar. Nothing further worth reporting happened at this interview.

14 I have this day been visited by Appa Sahib's Vakeels who brought orders of surrender for all the places demanded of them except the small district assigned to the Desai of Kutoor. They however accompanied every order with a claim or a statement of objections to the Peshwa's taking possession, observing at the same time that no delay should be made in the surrender. I declined making any remark on the claims brought forward until the lands had been delivered into the Peshwa's hands but some of the statements of the Vakeels were so reasonable that I have recommended to the Peshwa to authorise me to consent to Appa Sahib's proposals.

15 I shall have the honour to report on these claims hereafter but as the account which the Vakeels gave of their masters connection with the fort of Koosigul tends to important inferences, I shall take the liberty of stating it. This fort it appears by their account is not in Appa Sahib's possession but in that of a relation of his named Junnoba Soobedar who holds it by a sunnud granted in the Peshwa's name by Parashram Bhow at the time when he was invested with great powers over the southern countries. The Vakeels represented the harshness of the measure of dispossessing Junnoba Subedar and endeavoured to support the efficacy of his Sunnud on the grounds of the full powers exercised by Parashram Bhow but at the same time they avowed that Appa Sahib had no claim on Koosigul and on being asked if he would answer for Junnoba's submission, declared he could not. They said that in compliance with the Peshwa's commands Appa Sahib had given an order of surrender for Koosigul but that the Subedar was more likely to pay attention to one direct from the Peshwa. I told the Vakeels that I should send the order of surrender they had given

me, to Koosigul and hoped that it would be readily obeyed; in the mean time I should enquire into the state of the connection between Appa Sahib and Junnoba Subehdar. As Junnoba Subedar is a near relation of Appa Sahib's and appears to be so entirely dependent on him that Koosigul has always been considered both by the Government and by the people at large as in Appa Sahib's immediate possession, I could not help supposing that Appa Sahib had some secret motive for his present declaration of the Subedar's independance and the most probable motive is a desire to try the same expedient which he practised in the case of Hoobly for retaining Kossigul without appearing to refuse compliance with the demands of the allies. Should this surmise appear well founded the advance of the force from Bellary will be requisite to intimidate the Governor of Koosigul or eventually to capture that fortress.

16. Chintaman Rao's Vakeel has also been with me, his master has given up his most important usurpations and given satisfactory reasons for not having surrendered those which remain. He also has brought forward some claims which appear to deserve attention. I have not heard from the Kooroondwaur Chief and Narayan Rao of Merich has no lands to give up.

17. As far as I can judge of the disposition of the Jagirdars, Chintaman Rao has cheerfully given in to the new arrangements. Appa Sahib who is naturally proud and prone to anger and whose temper is rendered still more irritable by his disease, does not attempt to dissemble his dissatisfaction at the change in his situation and conforms to the Peshwa's demands only because he is not strong enough to resist them when supported by the British Government. The other two Patwardhans, though under Appa Sahib's influence, do not appear particularly averse to the present adjustment.

Rastia has not objected to any of the demands made on him but as they will really bear hard on him in some respects and as he is likely to endeavour to evade them by all the means in his power, there will probably be a good deal of difficulty in settling his affairs.

I have received a letter from Appa Desai apologizing for the style of his last letter; he shows every disposition to give up the Peshwa's lands as soon as they are demanded, but from particular causes the mutual renunciation of pecuniary claims will occasion great loss to him; I am in hopes of being able to indemnify him by procuring an addition to his Jagir; but he will still feel disappointment from the failure of the schemes which he appears to entertain of aggrandizing himself at the expense of the Rajah of Kolhapore.

Gokhla has not thought proper to send any reply to my letter announcing that his lands will hereafter be under the Guarantee of the British Government, though he had been often reminded

of this omission. He probably feels confident from the good footing on which he has stood with the Peshwa since the former adjustment of his disputes through the mediation of the British Government. The dignity of your Lordship's Government appears to require that he should either acknowledge the favour conferred on him by the offer of a guarantee or be made to renounce a benefit which should not have the appearance of being pressed upon his acceptance. I shall hereafter report the result of the steps which I propose to take under this impression. There has not yet been time to receive a reply from the Desai of Kittoor.

18. The Rajah of Kolhapore has received my letter but the intrigues and distractions of his own Durbar have hitherto prevented his replying to it. I have told his Vakeel that if I do not receive an answer within five days from this date, I shall be obliged to proceed to the measures which I intended to have adopted in the event of his refusal. He may perhaps be rendered more intractable by the recent success of his troops in repulsing an assault which was made by Appa Desai's troops on the fort of Akkewaut.

19. Colonel Montresor reached the Bhima opposite Pandharpore on the 13th and crossed that river though now deep and rapid in little more than two days. Colonel Doveton with a Battalion of the 9th Regiment of Madras N. I. and the 7th Madras N. C. was at that time within two marches of Pandharpore.

20. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Edmonstone's letter, dated 10th ultimo and shall pay strict attention to the instructions contained in it.

Letter No. 20.—The letter mentions the discussions between Elphinstone and the two Vakeels of the Raja of Kolhapur regarding the cession of Malwan by the Rajah in favour of the East India Company. The enclosure is important since it contains the draft of the engagement proposed for ratification by the Raja.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, dated 3rd September 1812.

I had last the honour to address your Lordship on the 30th ultimo; on the 31st the Rajah of Kolhapore's answer to my letter arrived. It was brought by Siroopjee Kheersagar a person who had formerly been employed by the Rajah of Kolhapore as his Vakeel at Bombay.

2. I shall have honour of forwarding a copy of the Rajah's letter through the Persian Secretary. It is of considerable length and contains a regular answer by paragraphs to my letter. In substance it represents the Rajah as well inclined to our arbitration

and guarantee but averse to ceding Malwan. Nothing conclusive is said on the subject even of the points which are most agreeable to the Rajah but I am requested to come to Kolhapur or to send a British Officer thither to carry on such negotiations as will arise from my proposals.

3. After the letter was read, I expressed my regret that the Rajah should throw so many obstacles in the way of an adjustment which alone could save his Government from the ruin with which it was threatened. However contrary such a system might be to the Rajah's real interests I said, I could not but believe that His Highness was desirous of protracting the negotiation by studied delays. His withholding his reply to my letter for so long a time and his making a proposal at last which could only lead to further procrastination would, I observed, admit of no other interpretation and I should therefore be obliged to proceed in the manner which I had described in my last letter to the Rajah.

4. Both Vakeels attributed the language of the Rajah's letter to the designs of his Ministers who were anxious to prevent an adjustment of his disputes by means of the British Government and said that the Rajah would immediately agree to the cession of Malwan, if the British Government would obtain his rightful demand from the Peshwa, but I positively refused to connect the cession of Malwan with the arbitration in any shape, and observed that the British Government had a sufficient right to demand Malwan for its own security even if no arbitration of the Peshwa's disputes were to be undertaken at length. Seroopjee Kheersagar assured me that the last words the Rajah said to him were that he considered my proposals to him as an agreement already made and that he looked to the British Government alone for his deliverance from the troubles and dangers in which he was involved. Seroopjee added many other professions of friendship and entreaties for our assistance on the part of his master and said that if I would only give him a draft of an agreement on the basis of my proposals he would engage to return it with the Rajah's signature within twelve days. I replied that the advantage which the Rajah was to derive from the proposed agreement prevented my doubting that he was disposed to accept it but that if I were to rely on His Highness's doing so I might again be disappointed by the intrigues of his Ministers to which Seroopjee replied that the power of the Ministers went no farther than to keep information from the Rajah and to write letters in a different spirit from what His Highness intended, this last abuse (he said) was the consequence of the defect on the Rajah's sight; but he added that if an agreement were once explained to the Rajah by a trustworthy person and presented to him for his signature no machinations of the Ministers would prevent his concluding it.

5. On this I consented to send a draft of an agreement to Rajah fixing the time for a reply as I had done in my letter. When this was settled, and I was dismissing the Vakeel, Mohd Ibrahim requested that I would mention his name and that of

colleagues in my letter in such a manner as should allow them a share in the credit of procuring the terms I was to offer. On my hesitating the Vakeels consulted between themselves and at last came to me and said that they thought the best thing they could do for the Rajah's interests was to sign an agreement immediately to which I replied that I had no objection to enter into an agreement with them, but that they best knew how far their instructions justified them in such a step and that they had better be sure that the Rajah would ratify the agreement before they signed it. Both Vakeels declaring that they were satisfied on that head, I retired and drew up an agreement of which the enclosed is a translation with as much dispatch as was possible. This agreement was read to the Vakeels who approved of most part of it, they however objected to the cession of Serjee Kote which they said was not essential to the command of the Post of Malwan, and I promised to enquire into the subject and agreed to give up Serjee Kote if it was not required for our purpose. The Vakeels then asked many questions which appeared to them connected with the agreement such as whether we should station any troops in Kolhapore. To which I replied in the negative, and whether we should station a Resident at Kolhapore, which I said did not appear necessary. Mohammed Ibrahim then asked if an officer of inferior rank (in stancing an Ensign) might not be stationed there to which I answered that if the Rajah was desirous of such an arrangement I could submit it to your Lordship but that it was not an object of the British Government. I then furnished the Vakeels with a copy of the agreement which I desired them to consider and if they approved it I begged them to return next day to sign, after which the Vakeels withdrew.

7 It seemed obvious to me that the Vakeels were actuated by a desire of adding to their own consequence as much as by zeal for their master's interest in pressing the immediate signature of the agreement but as Munshi Mohammed Ibrahim has more than once brought drafts of treaties from the Rajah and letters offering cessions of territory and referring to the Munshi for all negotiations, I saw no ground for objecting to his powers. Nor did I think the Vakeels would be so anxious to sign the agreement if they did not think it would be very acceptable to their Masters.

8 The Vakeels did not come to me on the 1st but they came yesterday and acquainted me that they consented to every thing contained in the agreement except the 4th article which bound the Rajah to fulfil his agreement with Lord Wellington. They said it would be utterly impossible for the Rajah to procure such security as was there required and that it was unnecessary as the Rajah would have no seaport left after he had ceded those specified in the agreement. Being convinced of the Rajah's inability to give any sufficient security but still believing that the Rajah would retain some ports after the cession of Malwan, I asked the Vakeels whether they would agree to cede all the ports belonging to the Rajah.

which I owned would render it unnecessary to take any security. The Vakeels replied that they would agree to fit out no vessels from any ports which might remain to the Rajah without the company's permission, to which I replied that the British Government did not wish to interfere with the Rajah's trade and after some further conversation the alteration inserted in the translation was made in the 4th article.

9. The Vakeels were very anxious that the lands attached to the forts should be left in the Rajah's possession but this I declined agreeing to. I also informed them that I understood Sirjee Kote to be essential to the possession of the harbour of Malwaun and that at all events I should require the cession of it if the Rajah could not give the security required in his agreement with Lord Wellington.

10. The Vakeels pressed me much to insert an article which should bind the British Government to permit the Rajah to import any goods he might wish either for his own use or for commerce (if he should think proper to trade himself) free of customs into the ports of Malwaun. They agreed that Military stores and all other articles of which the importation through our own harbours was forbidden should be excepted. I told them that such an article would lead to great confusion and altercation and could not be admitted but that I would recommend the Rajah's request to the particular attention of the Right Honourable the Governor of Bombay who, I did not doubt, would be disposed to comply with it.

11. The agreement was then signed by both parties Siroopjee Kheersagar returns with the copy under my signature to Kolhapore accompanied by a Karkoon of mine with a letter to the Rajah acquainting him that if the agreement is not ratified within 15 days I shall consider it as null and move the troops as I before intended.

12. The only part of the agreement that appears to require any comment is that which promises the Company's guarantee against the aggression of all foreign states and powers. The only powers who are within reach of Kolhapore are the Portuguese Government of Goa, the Peshwa and his Sirdars and the Petty state of Sawantwari, all of which will be in a great measure under the control of the British Government as soon as Captain Schuyler has concluded the proposed engagement with the chief of Sawant Wari. No other state would reach Kolhapore without marching through the territories of the British Government or its allies and no foreign state could safely be permitted to interfere with Kolhapore even if this engagement were not entered into. I did not think it prudent to offer the guarantee as fully as it has been given to the Jagirdars lest the British Government should be put to trouble and expense in consequence of the internal disturbances of the Kolhapore country.

Articles of Agreement concluded between Honourable Mountstuart Elphinstone, Resident at Poona on behalf of the Honourable East India Company and Moonshi Mohammed Ibrahim and

Seroopjee Kheersagar Vakeels for the Rajah of Kolhapore on the part of the said Rajah on the 1st of September 1812.

1. Whereas disputes have long prevailed between the Rajah of Kolhapore and the Peshwa and whereas an amicable adjustment of those disputes is highly desirable, the Rajah of Kolhapore placing full reliance on the impartiality and justice of the Honourable Company's Government, does hereby agree that the said government shall examine into and finally adjust the said disputes; and His Highness binds himself, his Heirs and successors to abide by such adjustment as the Honourable Company's Government shall accordingly determine.

2. The Honourable Company engages to arbitrate the afore-said disputes between His Highness the Rajah of Kolhapore on one hand and His Highness the Peshwa on the other, with justice and impartiality.

3. For the security of the British Trade against a renewal of the piratical depredations formerly practised by the Rajah of Kolhapore's subjects, the Rajah of Kolhapore hereby agrees on his own part and on the part of his heirs and successors to cede to the Honourable Company in perpetual sovereignty the Harbour of Malwan. That is to say the Fort and Island of Sindoodroog or Malwan and the Forts of Puddumgarh, Rajkot, and Serjee Kote, with the lands dependant on the said Forts and the British Troops shall immediately be put in possession of the said Forts and their dependencies.

4. Should any port or ports remain in the Rajah of Kolhapore's possession after the cession of the places above mentioned, or should any hereafter fall into his hands, the Rajah of Kolhapore agrees to allow no armed Vessels to be fitted out or to enter such port or ports and the Rajah agrees that the Honourable Company's Vessels shall have the right to search all vessels that may be in the said port or ports or that many have sailed from them and that, if any arms are found in vessels so searched, the vessels shall be lawful prize to the Honourable Company's vessels. The Rajah also agrees to permit agents to reside in all ports which may remain to him or which he may hereafter acquire, for the purpose of ascertaining the state of all vessels lying in such ports and to permit the said agents to search the said vessels. The intent of this article is, that neither the Rajah of Kolhapore nor any of his subjects shall possess any armed vessels or shall fit out any vessels so as to render applicable to purposes of war.

5. In consideration of the cession of the Harbour of Malwaun and on condition of the effectual suppression of piracy, the Honourable Company engages to guarantee such territories as shall remain in the Rajah of Kolhapore's possession after the cession of Malwan against the aggression of all foreign powers and states and the British Government further agrees that such territories as shall be adjudged to the Rajah of Kolhapore on the arbitration of his disputes with His Highness the Peshwa shall be comprehended in this guarantee.

6. With a view to the full execution of the agreement contained in the foregoing article, His Highness the Rajah of Kolhapore on his own part and on the part of his heirs and successors engages not to pursue any measures of hostility against foreign states without the previous consent of the Honourable Company and if any differences shall in future arise between His Highness, his heirs and successors and any foreign power or state the Honourable Company shall apply themselves to the adjustment of such differences conformably to justice and propriety, and His Highness the Rajah of Kolhapore agrees that whatever adjustment of such differences the Honourable Company shall determine His Highness shall without hesitation acquiesce in and abide by; His Highness the Rajah on his part and on the part of his heirs and successors engages not to urge any claims on foreign states which may have originated previously to the date of this agreement excepting those disputes with His Highness the Peshwa which are expressly referred to in the articles of this agreement.

7. And whereas various demands subsist on the part of the Hon'ble Company against the Rajah of Kolhapore in consequence of depredations formerly committed on the trade of the Hon'ble Company and its subjects, the Hon'ble Company being convinced of the Rajah's inability to satisfy those demands and of his sincere desire to prevent a repetition of the injuries formerly complained of, consents to relinquish all pecuniary claims and demands whatsoever against the Rajah of Kolhapore.

Munshi Mohammed Ibrahim and Seroopjee Kheersagar engage that a counterpart of this agreement ratified by the Rajah of Kolhapore shall be delivered to the Honourable Mountstuart Elphinstone within 15 days from the date of this agreement.

(A true translation)

(Sd.) M. ELPHINSTONE,

Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 21.—The letter explains the attitude of Appa Saheb, Rastia and Dafley three of the Maratha Jagirdars, regarding the adjustment of territories between them and the Peshwa by the intervention of the Resident. The letters of the Resident to the Raja of Kolhapur and Appa Desai are given in the enclosure.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, dated 30th August 1812.

Since I had last the honour to address your Lordship the affairs of the Jagirdars have been going on slowly towards an adjustment. In the present stage of the settlement a great deal depends

on the Peshwa's Government and much delay takes place in consequence.

2 The Peshwa's Ministers have not yet received information whether or not the usurped lands have been made over to His Highness's officers according to the promise of the Jagirdars I have however reason to believe that those which were in Chintaman Rao's possession have been made over

3. No intelligence has been received from Koosigul, but it is to be hoped, that fort will be delivered up without a contest as soon as I had ascertained that it was under Appa Sahib's influence I sent for that Chief's Vakeel and told him that I should consider his master as responsible for the conduct of the Killedar The Vakeel objected but acknowledged that he had no doubt of the Killedar's obeying Appa Sahib's orders and consequently giving up the Fort.

4. Appa Sahib has shown great reluctance to delivering up Baba Furkia unless a stipulation were admitted for his receiving good treatment I told him that Furkia had been guilty of many acts of treason and rebellion against Poona state and that none of its subjects could have any right to protect him or to stipulate for withdrawing their protection from him, that I could make no promise regarding the usage which Furkia should meet with, as it depended on the Peshwa alone but I had used all my influence to prevent his being harshly treated and should continue to do so. Appa Sahib was not satisfied with this promise but he nevertheless at last agreed to bring Furkia to Poona and deliver him up to the Peshwa.

5 Chintaman Rao having made over the lands required of him and having shown great readiness to comply with all the demands made on him thought himself entitled to ask permission to go to Sangli for a month to keep a Hindu festival which he always observes with extraordinary strictness, he promised to return by the Deshera. On my observing to his Vakeel that Chintaman Rao ought to execute all the Peshwa's demands before he made such a proposal and pointing out that Chintaman Rao's contingent was not yet arrived the Vakeel returned to his master and in a day or two came and informed me that Chintaman Rao's contingent was ready to be mustered, which I have accordingly announced to the Peshwa. I am very anxious to reward the readiness with which Chintaman Rao has complied with the demands of the British Government by attending to his convenience in this instance as I think such a mark of favour would incite the other Jagirdars to equal promptitude in settling their affairs. I am also desirous of showing confidence in such of the Jagirdars as have consented to the adjustment to convince them of the sincerity with which the entire oblivion of their past conduct was promised and in the present case I think Chintaman Rao may probably be indulged without any risk unless there is a probability of war with Kolhapore. It ought to be mentioned that Chintaman Rao soon after his visit to the Residency sent a message to me stating that he

had long since quarrelled with the other Chiefs of his family and that he hoped he should be considered as distinct from them and not have any misconduct of theirs imputed to him; that for his part he was well satisfied with the arrangement now brought about and was determined faithfully to adhere to it.

6. The preparations at Merich being still continued I thought it advisable to mention them again to the Vakeel of the Jagirdars of that place, to assure him that no designs were entertained against Merich and to point out the impolicy and impropriety of his continuing to act as if he were threatened; thus to keep up the spirit of distrust and enmity between the Jagirdar and the Peshwa which it was so very desirable to allow to subside. I have not had time to learn the effect of this administer.

7. I sent a message to Gokhla complaining of his not answering my letter and acquainting him that if he did not think the guarantee of the British Government worth accepting, it should be withdrawn. I was sorry to find that Gokhla had a very serious excuse for his neglect, his wife being dangerously ill and having since expired. Gokhla has now answered my letter and although his reply is not what it ought to have been, yet considering his domestic affliction I did not think it proper to urge him any further.

8. Rastia's Vakeels have frequently visited me on their master's business. Rastia did not object to giving up his usurped lands but constantly dwelt on his impoverished condition and his consequent inability to maintain any thing like his complete contingent. He stated his distresses to be owing to the loss of his property which was plundered by the Peshwa 12 or 13 years ago. The ruined state of his Jagir owing to the devastations committed by the Peshwa's troops at the same time and to the famine in 1804, the loss he will sustain by the mutual release of old debts which is to pass between the Peshwa and him, agreeably to the present arrangement; the disobedience of a subordinate Jagirdar of his named Dufia who ought to furnish 500 Horse for Rastia's contingent and who refused to furnish any; and finally the consequences of a dispute respecting money and lands between Rastia and Appajee Rao Nimbalkar another Sirdar of the Peshwa's which His Highness had some years ago undertaken to settle but which still remained unadjusted.

9. I was obliged to go into some enquiry respecting these statements of Rastia's, after which I acquainted his Vakeels that I found the loss occasioned by the Peshwa's attack on Rastia's lands by no means so great as they had represented, but supposing them even so great, Rastia had since been ten years in possession of his Jagir and exempt from Military service and all other expense except such as he thought fit to incur and ought certainly to have restored his lands to their former prosperity in so long a period. That his sufferings from this cause and from the famine were by

no means singular, yet he alone made them a ground for declining to perform his agreement. The Peshwa himself had been plundered all his property and had seen his dominions laid waste first by his enemies and afterwards by a famine yet neither he nor any of the Chiefs who shared his misfortunes had made their sufferings a pretext for refusing to fulfil their engagements. That so far from being a loser by the clearing off of old debts, he gained many lacks of Rupees by the arrangement, that what he said of Duffa's disobedience was true but that he might extricate himself from the difficulty it occasioned by giving up his claims on Duffa to the Peshwa who would allow a corresponding deduction from his contingent. That he might avail himself of the same expedient in regard to any other part of his Jagir which was really inadequate to support the troops for whose maintainance it was assigned and that I would take the settlement of his dispute with Nimbalkar upon myself and would see justice done to both parties.

10 Rastia eagerly closed with this last offer but he did not agree to the proposal for his giving up the unproductive parts of his Jagirs. With respect to them he proposed that they should be left in his hands free of Military service till they recovered their prosperity and that the collections should in the mean time be applied to the discharge of his debts. His Vakeel's stated this arrangement (which I opposed from the first) to have been formerly adopted with the Vinchoor Jagirdar. I sent for Balloba who conducts all the affairs of that Jagirdar to enquire into the truth of this statement but he utterly denies all knowledge of it and said that notwithstanding many losses and expenses, the Vinchoor Jagirdar had always maintained the contingent due from the lands in his possession complete, and had never been allowed an hour's leave of absence since the present Peshwa came to the Musnud.

11 Rastia at length agreed that he would have his contingent ready by the Dussera but said he hoped he should not be kept on duty for the whole year. I said I could make no promise on that head but I could assure him that the Peshwa would not make the service of his contingent a pretence for exhausting his resources and producing his ruin.

12 The Rajah of Kolhapore has not yet replied to the letter which I addressed to him on the 4th instant from Pandharpore an answer to which ought to have been received at least a fortnight ago. It is difficult to account for his inconsistency in soliciting aid with so much earnestness at one time and showing a reluctance to accept it when his affairs are in a much worse state than they were then. I believe the reason is that his Durbar is thrown into confusion by faction. His wife, his son, and part of his Ministers are well disposed to Appa Desai whose interest whatever may be his intentions will be best secured by the Rajah's declining our mediation. The Rajah's Vakeel always gives this explanation of his master's conduct adding that he is prevented by a defect in his sight from attending much to business and that the conduct of his

Government is therefore in a great measure in the hands of his corrupt Ministers. This story is not perhaps entirely to be believed but it is obvious that the Durbar of Kolhapore from whatever reason, is not desirous of agreeing to your Lordship's proposals and it is also certain that Appa Desai's immediate aggrandizement can only be brought about by pressing Kolhapore with the greatest vigor and endeavouring to compel the Raja to make terms directly with him. To expect Appa Desai to look to the solid advantage by a permanent adjustment of the disputes with the Rajah on just principles, would perhaps be to expect more foresight and moderation from him than ever falls to the lot of a Mahratta Sirdar.

13. In this view of the subject I have written the enclosed letters to the Rajah and to Appa Desai, requiring the Rajah's final answer within 15 days and stopping all Appa Desai's operations in the interim. I am not able to dispatch the letter to the Rajah of Kolhapore as yet, as I wish to send it by an intelligent native not now in Poona, who will be able to ascertain the real state of parties at Kolhapore and to discover the drifts of the intrigues which are carrying on at that Durbar. To prevent loss of time I have sent a copy of my letter to Kolhapore through the Rajah's Vakeel and I have already desired Appa Desai's Vakeel to request his master to suspend all active operations.

14. Appa Desai has always professed both in his letters and through his Vakeel, to feel the greatest anxiety for our interposition to settle his endless wars with Kolhapore; but since he heard of the proposed mediation, he has pressed his operations with such eagerness that he lost a considerable number of his troops in a premature attempt to storm Akkewaut and that place having afterwards surrendered, he advanced against Kolhapore, made (on the day of his arrival) an attempt to storm the Pettah (which failed) and has since continued to act with great vigour against the place. He has however always shown himself obedient to the Peshwa and attached to the British Government and I have no doubt that he will desist as soon as he received my letter.

15. Appa Desai long ago declared his readiness to comply with the demands which I made on him in your Lordship's name, but his Vakeel showed such strong reasons for not resuming the lands in his possession during the war with Kolhapore, that although I continued to tell him that the lands must be given up as soon as the Peshwa's officers appeared to claim them yet I recommended to the Minister to defer sending off those officers till a more favourable opportunity. I am not sorry to have an opportunity of leaving those lands in Appa Desai's hands till something can be settled about completing his Jageer, which it might be difficult to bring about, if the lands were once surrendered, and which it is necessary to effect as well for the sake of justice as to avoid alienating a faithful adherent of the British Government and the Peshwa. Part of the lands now held without sunnuds by Appa Desai were left with him at the recommendation of Major General Close to compensate in some degree for the deficiency of his Jagir.

*Substance of a letter from Mr. Elephinstone to
Appa Desai, dated 30th August 1812.*

Your Vakeel will have apprized you that I was carrying on negotiations with the Rajah of Kolhapore. The Rajah has not thought fit to comply with my demands which are, that, he shall submit his claims on His Highness the Peshwa to the arbitration of the British Government, and shall satisfy the demands which the Honourable Company has against him for his depredations on the trade of the Coast.

I have this day written to say that if he does not agree to my demands within fifteen days from the date of my letter, he will be attacked by the British troops. Hence-forward the settlement of all disputes with him is in the hands of the British Government, I have therefore to request that you will abstain from all further offensive operations and that you will remain quiet holding in your possession all the places you have already obtained.

(A true translation)

(Sd.) M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona.

*Substance of a letter from Mr. Elphinstone to the
Rajah of Kolhapore, dated 30th August 1812.*

I had formerly the honour to address a letter to you of which to prevent mistakes I now enclose a copy. Notwithstanding the little attention you paid to the overtures I formerly made to you by command of the Right Honourable the Governor-General, I have complied with the earnest entreaties of your Vakeel Munshi Mohammed Ibrahim, and have waited patiently during a period of three weeks for an answer, which ought to have reached me within ten days.

You must be aware that it is impossible for me to allow the public affairs to suffer by such delays and you are therefore in all probability prepared for the communication I have now to make to you. I request that you will be pleased to favour me with a categorical answer to the demand contained in the enclosed letter. I have directed the Bearer Kishan Rao to receive your answer and to transmit it to me by the speediest conveyance, and if I do not receive it within fifteen days from this date I shall be under the necessity of believing that you are determined to reject the offers that have been made to you. In that case being deprived of the means of investigating your claims I shall be compelled to proceed to such measures as are necessary for supporting the alledged rights of our ally the Peshwa and it will only remain for me to declare on the part of the Right Honourable the Governor-General that the districts in the Peshwa's possession and claimed by you are under the guarantee of the British Government. I shall call on you to acknowledge this guarantee and shall move the British

Army towards your territories to support this demand and the claims of the British Government itself against you. I cannot but hope that you will see the numerous advantages which will accrue to you from the arbitration and guarantee proposed in the enclosed and the injustice and imprudence of rejecting such proposals. Should that be the case I shall no doubt be favoured with an answer within the period above mentioned, but, should I not receive such an answer (I think myself bound to inform you) no further negotiations for arbitrating your claims to Chickoree and Manowly will be entered on; but the British troops will pursue their operations till you have promised to forbear your attacks on the territories in the Peshwa's possession and till you have agreed to satisfy the just demands of the British Government.

Kishen Rao has orders to deliver this letter to you and to wait 3 days and no longer for your answer.

I have requested that the operations carried on against you by the Sirdar Appa Desai may be suspended. If you accept these terms I should be sorry that your country should suffer and if by rejecting them you force the British Troops to move against you a little delay on the Sirdar's part will be of no consequence.

(Sd.) M. ELPHINSTONE,

Letter No. 22.—The letter intimates the points at dispute between the Raja of Kolhapur and Elphinstone before a treaty for the cession of Malwan could be concluded between them. The cession of Chickori and Manowli in favour of the Peshwa was also effected by the same treaty. The annexures A, B, C, and 1 and 2 referred to in the body of the letter are not in the Records. Only the treaty as ratified by the Raja of Kolhapur forms the enclosure.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, the 10th October 1812.

I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my last dispatch that I had sent off the agreement entered on between the Kolhapore Vakeels and me for the Rajah's ratification. I have been prevented addressing your Lordship since that time partly by the arrangements relating to Kolhapore and the numerous details which required adjustment between the Jagirdars and the Peshwa and partly by my daily expectation of being able to acquaint your Lordship with the result of my proceeding.

2. I shall do myself the honour of transmitting through the Chief Secretary the reports I have received from Kishan Rao the Agent whom I sent with the agreement. Those papers exhibit a detail of the intrigues which prevail at the little court of Kolhapore

and of the extraordinary fluctuations which have taken place in the Rajah's Councils. It will be sufficient at present to give a summary account of those transactions and of the proceedings which I adopted in consequence for the purpose of carrying your Lordship's commands into effect.

3. At Kishan Rao's first interview with the Rajah, that prince held the most friendly and even submissive language towards the British Government, but showed a great disinclination to ratify the agreement and advanced many new and unreasonable demands. There appeared to be a division among the Rajah's Ministers on the question whether he should ratify or reject the agreement, and some of them had proposed that he should send another Vakeel to confer with me, a step which as it was calculated to produce delay, I thought it probable the Rajah would adopt. In this state of circumstances I thought it expedient to endeavour to fix the Rajah by showing him the determination of the British Government to adhere to the terms already proposed and I accordingly directed Kishan Rao to press the ratification on the Rajah and to let him know that no alteration could be admitted in the terms agreed to which were more favourable to the Rajah than either his conduct or his success had entitled him to expect.

4. Kishan Rao's second letter announced that the Rajah only objected to that part of the sixth article which makes his acting in concert with the British Government the condition of the British Government's protecting his territories, and that he had agreed to send a copy of the agreement with the objectionable passage struck out, to me and also to sign the agreement in its original state and deposit it with his own Prime Minister who would grant his receipt of it for my satisfaction.

5. In reply to this letter I directed Kishan Rao to state to the Rajah that his proposal which was in itself inadmissible, seemed to be made for the purpose of gaining time, and that in consequence I had requested Colonel Montresor to move in the direction of Kolhapore and that unless the Rajah ratified the original agreement before that officer crossed the Krishna, I should be compelled to proceed to enforce the demands which I had long before held out as the consequence of the Rajah's refusing to accede to the terms I had offered. By Kishan Rao's next letter it appeared that the Rajah after numerous consultations with the members of his family and Durbar, had altered his mind and refused to ratify the agreement at all, but on Kishan Rao's pointing out to him the consequences of such a resolution he determined on a course by which he seems to have thought he would escape the bad consequences of a refusal to ratify the agreement at the same time that he would not pledge himself to any conditions which did not entirely suit his views. Accordingly he ratified the agreement, but annexed certain conditions to it entirely subversive of the principle on which it had been originally framed. I have the honour to enclose translations of the Rajah's letter and of the articles which accompanied it (Enclosures A and B).

6. If the conditions imposed by the Rajah had been agreed to, it would have been incumbent on the British Government to give Chikori and Manowlee to the Rajah without enquiry; to have engaged for various other cessions on the Peshwa's part and for a further enquiry into some other demands to which the Rajah alluded, to have delivered over Appa Desai to the Rajah's vengeance; to have undertaken the guarantee of the foreign policy; to have permitted the Rajah to retain his piratical vessels; and to have abandoned its pecuniary claims on him, without any equivalent unless the single fort of Malwaun without any of its lands or dependencies could be called by that name. I could not but consider a ratification of the agreement on these conditions as a refusal to accept the terms I had proposed; and I therefore immediately directed Kishan Rao to inform the Rajah of the view I took of the subject and to declare to him that he was to consider all my former engagements in his favour as annulled.

7. I afterwards addressed a letter to the Rajah of which the enclosed is a translation (Enclosure C). In this letter I thought it necessary to answer all the objections which the Rajah had urged to the conduct of the British Government; to give him a view of the proceedings from the first and to exhibit all the arguments by which the justice of those proceedings was supported. I thought it expedient to write this last part of the letter very much in detail as the Marattas though sufficiently acute in discovering any point in a discussion which is favourable to their cause, are apt not only to neglect anything that makes against them, in their reply, but entirely to overlook it in considering the subject. I therefore put the arguments which proved the justice of the conduct of the British Government in every light that occurred to me and repeated them as often as I found an opening for doing so; I concluded my letter by stating the course which the British Government was resolved to pursue and enclosed drafts of two agreements to one of which I insisted on the Rajah's acceding as the only condition which could prevent the advance of the British troops into his territories.

8. The first of those agreements (No. 1) stipulated for the renunciation of the Rajah's claims on Chickoree and Manowlee and promised the restoration of all the other countries conquered from him by the Peshwa since the month of September 1808. It also stipulated for the suppression of piracy but made no mention of Malwaun and left the pecuniary claims of the British Government open for subsequent discussion. The demands of Chickoree and Manowlee appeared indispensable to the preservation of our consistency. It was in fact only a partial execution of the threats which had been so often held out to the Rajah. As it was not your Lordship's intention to make Malwaun the grounds of a war, I thought this opportunity of excluding the cession of it from our peremptory demands, particularly favourable as it showed the disinterestedness of the British Government while our increasing the demands in favour of our ally and our preparation to support

them with vigour, prevented all appearance of our receding in consequence of the Rajah's obstinacy. The Rajah's depredations on our trade were however so manifestly unjust and so insulting to the British Government that it was impossible to relinquish the demand for the suppression of them when it had once been agitated, without degradation.

9. On these grounds I made the Rajah's accepting the above conditions indispensable to the suspension of hostilities but as the cession of Malwaun and the adjustment of all the Rajah's disputes continued to be very desirable and as such an arrangement when coupled with an exemption from our pecuniary demands, seemed highly advantageous to the Rajah, I transmitted a second draft (No. 2) of an agreement to him in which those arrangements were included, acquainting him that he was at perfect liberty to accept or reject them as he thought best.

10. I gave the Rajah three days to consider of an answer to those proposals and requested if His Highness signed either agreement that it might be sent to Colonel Montresor who would suspend his march on the receipt of it. This letter was dispatched on the 26th of September and on the 27th I received a letter from the Rajah enclosing a copy of the original agreement which he had signed without annexing any condition on the face of the ratification but the letter contained as before a demand for the immediate surrender of Chickoree and Manowly; I sent this treaty back observing that I could not at any time have received it, while the Rajah so much mistook its tendency and that if that objection did not exist, it was now too late. On the 30th ultimo my letter with the two drafts reached the Rajah who after some deliberation signed both of them and sent them with two Vakeels to Colonel Montresor who was then preparing to cross the Krishna at a point not more than 30 miles distant from Kolhapore. As the second draft comprehends all the terms of the first, together with several other stipulations I conclude by the Rajah's signing both that he meant to accept the second but that as the first was the agreement which I had particularly insisted on, he thought it safest to sign it also. I shall therefore send him a counterpart of the second signed by me on your Lordship's behalf.

11. When the Rajah sent these agreements to Colonel Montresor he also addressed a letter to me in which he complained of the hasty manner in which I had set aside the first agreement but when it is considered that I had been pressing those terms on his acceptance for five months; that I had repeatedly apprized him of the steps which would be pursued if he did not accept them; that I allowed him 15 days to ratify the agreement when his Vakeels only required 8 and that I actually allowed 26 days to elapse before I carried into effect the measure which had been announced as the consequence of his delaying beyond the fixed period, I am sure that haste cannot be justly imputed to me, and I am convinced that if anything has gone amiss in this negotiation

it has been owing to the delay in the early stages of it, occasioned by the Peshwa's conduct and not to haste in any part of its subsequent progress.

12. The principal difference between this agreement and that which I had formerly the honour to transmit to your Lordship consists in the alterations which have been made in the first articles by which the offer of our arbitration is recalled. Chickori and Manowlee declared to belong of right to the Peshwa; and the districts conquered from the Rajah restored to him unconditionally.

13. I shall take the liberty of offering some remarks on the justice of this arrangement which is also fully discussed in my letter to the Rajah. The dispute concerning Chickoree and Manowlee commenced in 1804 or 5 at which time those districts had been for many years in the Peshwa's possession. At that period the Peshwa proposed to the Rajah to refer the dispute to arbitration but the Rajah rejected the offer and proceeded to support his demands by force of arms. The Rajah was uniformly unsuccessful in the wars which followed, but the disturbance which he occasioned in the southern countries, becoming for various reasons, a serious inconvenience to the allies, the Rajah was informed that the connection between the Peshwa and the British Government obliged the latter state to interfere; that if he would state his claims they would be impartially considered; but that if he refused to do so the British Government would be obliged to defend the territories of which its ally was in actual possession. The Rajah having refused to bring any proofs of his claim, it of course only remained to the British Government to believe those assertions of the Peshwa which had not been contradicted and to consider him as the owner of a territory of which he was in possession and to which his title had not been disproved. The Peshwa has advanced another argument which seems by no means unreasonable to prove that he is now entitled to Chickoree and Manowlee even if they originally belonged of right to the Rajah of Kolhapore. The substance of his reasoning is that he was in possession of Chickoree and Manowlee when the Rajah advanced his claims: that as those claims were certainly not so clear as to render all discussion unnecessary, the most the Rajah could reasonably expect of him was his consent to an examination and an equitable adjustment of the dispute. As the Rajah rejected this arrangement when offered by the Peshwa and made war on that prince because he would not give up Chickoree and Manowlee without any enquiry, the Peshwa is of opinion that that was on the Rajah's part unjust even if his claims were well founded and that the Peshwa is entitled to the possession of the disputed districts as an indemnity for the expenses of a war produced by the Rajah's violence.

14. The Peshwa further asserts that the Rajah has since the beginning of the dispute formally renounced his claim to the districts of Chickoree and Manowlee and that his two last attacks on them were infractions of positive treaties.

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14. The Peshwa further asserts that the Rajah has since the beginning of the dispute formally renounced his claim to the districts of Chickoree and Manowlee and that his two last attacks on them were infractions of positive treaties.

15. If these arguments justify the threats, which have been held out by the British Government to the Rajah of defending those districts for the Peshwa unless the Rajah should prove his own claims to them, there can be little doubt about the policy of enforcing those threats in the manner which has been adopted. It was particularly necessary to do so in this case, for, as the Rajah had already made several treaties with the Peshwa since the commencement of the present dispute and had broken them again as soon as he saw a favourable opportunity, it was only to his dread of the British Government that we could look for his adherence to any agreement into which he might enter and the British Government has suffered so many injuries from the Rajah and has so often allowed him to evade the performance of his engagements that it was necessary to take some decided step before he could be convinced that such conduct would no longer be submitted to.

16. The restoration of the Peshwa's conquests appeared likely to reconcile the Rajah to the arrangement and to convince him of the sincere desire of the British Government to attend to his interests as far as was in its power, while on the other hand the measure was not likely to give offence to the Peshwa, who in all the discussions that I have had with him since the subject was first mentioned, has declared that he would be perfectly satisfied with any arrangement that left him in possession of Chickoree and Manowlee.

17. It is to be observed that the Rajah cannot impute his loss of Chickoree and Manowlee to the interposition of the British Government. He has not had possession of either of those districts for many years and his attempts to conquer them have led to still greater losses and were more likely to have ended in his own deposition than in the recovery of any of his countries that have fallen into the Peshwa's hands; I understand he had lost territory worth 10 lacks of Rupees a year; Chickoree and Manowlee are rated at $3\frac{1}{2}$ and therefore if my accounts are correct, he will recover $6\frac{1}{2}$ lacks of Rupees of revenue which otherwise he must have given up for ever. His cession of Malwaun must not be reckoned among his losses by this treaty as he obtains in exchange for it the protection for the British Government and a release from a Debt of 50 lacks of Rupees which the British Government had certainly the power as well as the right to enforce and which was incurred in a manner which gave the Rajah no claim to forbearance or indulgence.

18. The only objection that strikes me to the present agreement is that the Peshwa may suppose that he owes the possession of Chickoree and Manowlee to his own intrigues and may be induced by his success in this instance to try the same insidious policy on some future occasion; but after the reasons I have mentioned for taking the disputed districts from the Rajah, I do not think the wish of disappointing the Peshwa's intrigues as sufficient motive for an opposite course or policy. It would indeed have been rewarding the Rajah for his share in the very intrigues for which the Peshwa was punished. I therefore thought it best entirely to

disregard the machinations of the Peshwa's Court in this arrangement and to trust to other measure for repressing them in future. I shall take every measure in my power to procure the immediate execution of the agreement on the Peshwa's part and I shall transmit a copy of it to the Right Hon'ble the Governor of Bombay to enable him to enforce such articles as depend on that residency.

19. The enclosed correspondence with Colonel Montresor will show the movements adopted by the officer in consequence of the prospect of hostilities with the Rajah of Kolhapore. His Majesty's 47th Regiment marched from this place at the same time when instructions were sent to Colonel Montresor to begin his march and joined that officer at Pussasowly where his route crossed that of the 47th. It is highly creditable to the discipline of the corps and to Lieut. Colonel Bland who commands it that although on the march to Poona the men were several times lodged in the villages on the road and in the houses of the natives, not a single complaint against them has been made either to the Durbar or to me since the arrival of the Regiment in the Peshwa's dominions.

20. I shall have the honour to send copies of my correspondence with Appa Desai during the negotiation with Kolhapore, through the regular channel.

21. Many discussions have taken place with the Southern Jagirdars regarding the final arrangement of their lands; the number of troops which they are to furnish; and other subjects on which I shall hereafter have the honour of reporting to your Lordship. The final adjustment of these questions has been principally obstructed by the delays of the Peshwa's Durbar in sending the proper officers to state its claims on the Jagirdars in furnishing the requisite papers, and in other matters. These delays however are I believe entirely to be attributed to the habits of the Court and to the numerous Hindu festivals which occur about this time of the year.

Articles of agreement concluded between the Rajah of Kolhapore and Mr. Elphinstone, Resident at Poona, on the part of the British Government and accepted by the Rajah of Kolhapore on the 1st of October 1812.

1. There shall be perpetual peace and friendship between the allied Governments of the Honourable Company and His Highness the Peshwa on the one part, and His Highness the Rajah of Kolhapore on the other.

2. The Rajah of Kolhapore on his own part and on that of his heirs and successors hereby renounces all right and claim of whatever description on the districts of Chickoree and Manowlee and all dependencies which have hitherto been comprehended in those districts. The districts aforesaid are henceforward to belong in absolute sovereignty to Row Pandit Purdhan, Peshwa Bahadur, his heirs and successors.

3. All the forts and country taken in consequence of the wars occasioned by the disputed claims to Chickoree and Manowlee from the Rajah of Kolhapore within the last four years, i.e. since

15. If these arguments justify the threats, which have been held out by the British Government to the Rajah of defending those districts for the Peshwa unless the Rajah should prove his own claims to them, there can be little doubt about the policy of enforcing those threats in the manner which has been adopted. It was particularly necessary to do so in this case, for, as the Rajah had already made several treaties with the Peshwa since the commencement of the present dispute and had broken them again as soon as he saw a favourable opportunity, it was only to his dread of the British Government that we could look for his adherence to any agreement into which he might enter and the British Government has suffered so many injuries from the Rajah and has so often allowed him to evade the performance of his engagements that it was necessary to take some decided step before he could be convinced that such conduct would no longer be submitted to.

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1. There shall be perpetual peace and friendship between the allied Governments of the Honourable Company and His Highness the Peshwa on the one part, and His Highness the Rajah of Kolhapore on the other.

2. The Rajah of Kolhapore on his own part and on that of his heirs and successors hereby renounces all right and claim of whatever description on the districts of Chickoree and Manowlee and all dependencies which have hitherto been comprehended in those districts. The districts aforesaid are henceforward to belong in absolute sovereignty to Row Pandit Purdhan, Peshwa Bahadur, his heirs and successors.

3. All the forts and country taken in consequence of the wars occasioned by the disputed claims to Chickoree and Manowlee from the Rajah of Kolhapore within the last four years, i.e. since

the month of September 1808 and now occupied by the troops of Row Pandit Pardhan, Peshwa Bahadur, shall be immediately restored to the Raja of Kolhapore.

4. The Rajah of Kolhapore hereby renounces all other claims of whatever description on Row Pandit Pradhan, Peshwa Bahadur, and on all and every part of his dominions with the exception of the new conquests mentioned in the 3rd article. His Highness the Maharaja likewise renounces all claims upon Neepaunce. His Highness the Raja of Kolhapore hereby further renounces all claims of whatever description on all the Peshwa's subjects of whatever rank and denomination.

5. For the security of the British Trade against a renewal of the piratical depredations formerly practised by the Rajah of Kolhapore's subjects the Rajah of Kolhapore hereby agrees on his own part and on the part of his heirs and successors to cede to the Honourable Company in perpetual sovereignty the harbour of Malwaun; that is to say the fort and island of Sindoodroog or Malwaun and the forts of Puddumghur, Raj Kote and Sirjee Kote, with the lands dependent on the said forts and the British troops shall immediately be put in possession of the said forts and their dependencies.

6. His Highness the Rajah of Kolhapore engages on his own part and on that of his heirs and successors never to employ any armed vessels or to permit any armed vessels to be fitted out at or to enter any of the sea ports which may remain in His Highness's possession after the cession of the places before mentioned or which he may hereafter acquire: and the Rajah agrees that the Honourable Company's Vessels shall have the right to search all vessels that may be in the said ports or that may have sailed from them and that if any arms are found in vessels so searched, the said vessels shall be lawful prize to the Honourable Company. The Rajah further engages to permit agents on the part of the Honourable Company to reside in all ports in his dominions or which may hereafter fall into his hands, for the purpose of ascertaining the state of all vessels lying in such ports and to permit the said agents to search the said vessels.

7. If any ship bearing the British flag or furnished with a British pass or belonging to the allies of the British Government should hereafter put into the Rajah of Kolhapore's ports or be driven by stress of weather or any other cause upon his shores, His Highness the Rajah of Kolhapore engages on his own part and on that of his heirs and successors that all practicable assistance shall be rendered to such vessels and the Rajah further agrees that no claim shall be advanced by himself or any of his subjects on any vessel belonging to whatever nation that may be ship-wrecked or driven by stress of weather upon his shores.

8. In consideration of the cession of the harbour of Malwaun and on condition of the effectual suppression of piracy, the Honourable Company engages to guarantee such territories as shall remain

in the Rajah of Kolhapore's possession, against the aggression of all foreign powers and states.

9. With a view to the full execution of the agreement contained in the foregoing article, His Highness the Rajah of Kolhapore on his own part and on that of his heirs and successors engages not to pursue any measures of hostility against foreign states without the consent of the Honourable Company and if any differences shall in future arise between His Highness, his heirs and successors and any foreign power or state, the Honourable Company shall apply themselves to the adjustment of such differences conformably to justice and propriety, and His Highness the Rajah of Kolhapore agrees that whatever adjustment of such differences the Honourable Company shall determine, His Highness shall acquiesce in and abide by. His Highness the Rajah of Kolhapore on his part and on that of his heirs and successors engages not to urge any claims on foreign states which may have originated previously to the date of this agreement. Should the conditions contained in this article not be fulfilled by the Rajah, the 8th article is to be considered null and void.

10. And whereas various demands subsist on the part of the Honourable Company against His Highness the Rajah of Kolhapore in consequence of depredations formerly committed on the trade of the Honourable Company and its subjects, the Honourable Company being convinced of the Rajah's inability to satisfy those demands and of his sincere desire to prevent a repetition of the injuries formerly complained of, consents to relinquish all pecuniary claims and demands whatsoever against the Rajah of Kolhapore.

What is written in the above ten articles is hereby agreed to.
Done at Curveer on the Twenty-fourth of Rumzan.

(Seal of the Rajah of Kolhapore)

(A true translation)

(Sd.) M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 23.—The letter contains details of the Resident's interview with the Peshwa and his Minister, regarding the Governor-General's letter which embodies his (G.-G.'s) view about the complicity of Peshwa's minister in obstructing negotiations with Kolhapur. The views are expressed in the enclosure to this letter.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Poona, 13th October 1812.

On the receipt of your Lordship's commands notified in Mr. Edmonstone's dispatch of the 11th ultimo, I sent immediately to request an audience of the Peshwa which various circumstances prevented his granting me till the 7th.

2. I then went to the Minister's house, which the Peshwa had appointed for the meeting.

3. As the message which I had to communicate was of so much importance and as the part of it which relates to the dismissal of the minister might by a little misconstruction be so represented as to excite much alarm and jealousy in the Peshwa's mind, I thought it prudent to commit the whole to writing and after it had been read in my presence to deliver it to His Highness. I accordingly carried a note, containing your Lordship's message to the Durbar of which I enclose a translation.

4. I had only time to inform the Minister of your Lordship's extreme displeasure when the Peshwa came in. As soon as the usual enquiries had passed, I acquainted His Highness that I had reported the obstructions which I had met with in my negotiation with Kolhapore, to your Lordship and had added all the explanations and apologies which had been offered by His Highness and the Minister; that I was concerned to state that although those communications had a considerable effect in preventing the bad impression which the conduct of this court must otherwise have made on your Lordship, they by no means prevented your feeling a great degree of surprise and uneasiness at a proceeding so little to have been expected from His Highness; that I had been led by the greatness of the occasion to commit to paper the message which your Lordship had commanded me to deliver and that with His Highness's permission it should now be read. I also suggested the propriety of His Highness's desiring such persons to withdraw as were not required to be present. The Peshwa immediately requested that he might be allowed to read the paper himself, to which I consented, imagining that it was his intention to read it on the spot; but His Highness afterwards observed that the subject would require a great deal of consideration and that he was desirous of examining my note carefully before he returned any answer to it. I endeavoured for some time to prevail upon His Highness to allow the paper to be read in my presence, after removing any of the persons present whom His Highness did not wish to be acquainted with its contents. I represented that my instructions were to deliver your Lordship's message myself, and that it was only as a security against mistakes that I had committed it to writing at all. I added that some part of the note might require explanation and some other observations which were rather intended to impress His Highness with the importance of the communication than to prevail on him to read the note in my presence, a circumstance to which I did not attach much importance.

5. His Highness who seems to have thought that the note contained some serious demand on your Lordship's part was extremely averse to exposing himself to the necessity of returning an answer or entering into any explanations without previous preparation; and accordingly he persisted in his request that he might

be allowed to peruse the note by himself to which I at last consented, begging that His Highness would fix a day for me to attend him and receive his answer. I continued at the Durbar for some time after this conversation but all the persons present remained in profound silence till my departure, except at one time when the Peshwa said he hoped I did not consider his refusal to read the paper in my presence, as any reflection on me and I assured him that I had no such suspicion.

6. After I was gone the Peshwa spoke to the Minister in terms of great displeasure, said that he had brought about such a disagreement as had never happened in the ten years for which the alliance had subsisted and left his house without taking any further notice of him or showing him the note which I had delivered.

7. I have since received a message from the Minister in which he attempted once more to exculpate himself and desired me in the Peshwa's name and his own to make use of every argument and assurance which could tend to remove your Lordship's displeasure. On the receipt of this message, I applied for an interview with the minister and I shall request an audience of the Peshwa before I drop the subject. This application is intended to give both His Highness and his minister a deep impression of the importance of the occasion but as I know the Peshwa's aversion to personal intercourse on such occasions I shall not insist on receiving his answer from his own mouth if I find him very reluctant to give it.

8. Nothing could be better timed than the arrival of your Lordship's instructions on this subject. It will hereafter appear that the Peshwa's late intercourse with the Rajah of Kolhapore has not been so guarded as might have been expected. I have also received private information which gives reason to believe that the acquisition of the districts of Chickoree and Manowlee is by no means sufficient to satisfy the rapacity of the Peshwa's Durbar. No sooner was the Court informed that the British Government was determined to put them in possession of those districts, which they had all along declared to be the extent of their wishes, than they determined to profit by the mistakes of the Rajah of Kolhapore and endeavour to obtain some further accession of territory on the ground of his refusal to agree to an arbitration. They accordingly determined to remonstrate with me on the agreement which I had concluded, as sacrificing some of their just claims and they were for some days busily occupied in searching all the treaties between the states of Poona and Kolhapore from the time of Sewajee with a view to picking out every article that could afford any countenance to a claim on Kolhapore. Your Lordship's message will I hope have put a final stop to these unjustifiable

projects. The caution which it will probably inspire at this court will also facilitate the execution of the agreement with the Rajah of Kolhapore as far as depends on the Peshwa and will make His Highness more reasonable in the numerous details which are to be settled with the Jagirdars, the successful adjustment of which must in a great measure depend on the candor and moderation of the Peshwa's Government.

9. I long ago received certain information of the arrival at this city of a new Vakeel from the Rajah of Kolhapore named Sakharam Pandit. I was informed that his object was to prevail on the Peshwa to undertake the arbitration of the claims of the British Government on the Rajah. I have only heard of one communication between this Vakeel and the Minister which was carried on through Trimbakjee Dainglia. I have not heard directly what passed between the Minister and the Vakeel but as he has allowed him to remain at Poona and has concealed his arrival from me, it appears as if he intended to make some use of him which he did not wish me to know. The accounts I have heard from Kolhapore of the Vakeel's reports, represent him as stating the Peshwa to have opposed the treaty with the British Government to the utmost, and the Rajah himself told Kishan Rao of a very threatening speech of the Peshwa's which reached the Rajah through Trimbakjee Dainglia and probably by the channel of Sakharam Pandit. For reasons which I should hereafter have the honour of stating I have contented myself with watching the progress of these intrigues without making any communication respecting them to the Durbar.

10. Your Lordship will observe by Kishan Rao's letters that he states a Vakeel to have been sent to Kolhapore in Gokhla's name but charged with a message from the Peshwa. A newswriter whom I sent to Kolhapore gives the same account of the Vakeel and both he and Kishan Rao agree in the drift of his communications. They are stated by the newswriter to be ambiguous—the Rajah to be firm in his negotiations or steady in his engagements with the British Government. Kishan Rao represents them by expressed and capable of being interpreted either as advising as more unreserved and states their tendency to be to persuade the Raja to drop his negotiations with the British Government or at least to avoid all written engagements.

11. The concurrence of the intelligence which I have obtained in Poona and that which has reached me through two separate channels from Kolhapore, I am afraid leaves little room to doubt that the Peshwa or his court have continued their endeavours to counteract the negotiations of the British Government, even after my remonstrances and their penitence and professions of amendment. It is easy to conceive the disgust which this intelligence must give your Lordship and it is doubtful whether I ought not to

renew my remonstrances in a higher tone than ever on this new discovery of the insincerity of the Court of Poona; but I trust the following reasons will appear to your Lordship to justify my suspending that course of proceeding until I am honoured with your Lordship's commands.

12. It is doubtful whether these intrigues of the Poona Durbar have produced any bad consequence hitherto and I am induced to hope that they will give rise to no such consequences in future.

13. They may perhaps have instigated the Rajah of Kolhapore to the measures by which he forfeited his claims to Chickoree and Manowlee; but, in that case, the Rajah has less reason than ever to complain of the decision, as he has brought it on himself by joining in a scheme for deceiving the British Government. It will produce no immediate inconvenience to the British Government, on the contrary it facilitates the settlement of the Peshwa's disputes with Kolhapore and relieves the British Government from the difficulties which would have occurred had the Peshwa lost Chickoree and Manowli in providing an indemnity for Appa Desai.

14. I hope no future inconvenience will be experienced because I expect that the message which I had the honour to deliver from your Lordship will effectually restrain both the minister and the Peshwa from again attempting so dangerous a course.

15. On the other hand my noticing the late intrigues might lead to considerable inconvenience and embarrassment. If your Lordship's knowledge of those intrigues were avowed, so soon after the delivery of your message to the Peshwa, it would become indispensibly necessary either to abandon the Peshwa's interest in the present negotiations; which could not be done without leaving the seeds of confusion in the southern countries; or to insist on the dismissal of the Minister; an interference in the internal Government of our ally which though it may in particular cases be just and necessary can never be desirable on general principles. At the same time my silence on the subject of the Peshwa's intrigues will not prevent your Lordship's taking any notice of them that you may judge expedient either now or hereafter.

16. I have already had the honour to forward copies of my correspondence with Colonel Montresor subsequent to the Rajah's acceptance of the agreement. I shall transmit a copy of that instrument in Mahratta through the Persian Secretary. I have given the Rajah no reason to think that your Lordship will ratify the agreement in person if it meets with your approval, because I was in doubt whether the occasion was of sufficient importance ;

but if such an act is not inconsistent with the practice of the Government, I have no doubt it would be a great satisfaction to the Rajah.

Translation of a note delivered by Mr. Elphinstone to His Highness the Peshwa on the 7th of October 1812.

The Right Hon'ble the Governor-General has heard with great surprise and concern of the message sent in His Highness the Peshwa's name to the Rajah of Kolhapore. Considering the solemn engagements which subsist between the Governments, His Lordship never expected such conduct from the Peshwa's Durbar towards the British Government and especially at the present time when the British Government has entered on a difficult and expensive undertaking solely for the benefit of His Highness the Peshwa's Government, His Lordship entertained a confident expectation that no exertion would be wanting on His Highness's part to promote both the arrangement of his own affairs and the attainment of the objects of the British Government, but His Highness's ministers in direct opposition to these reasonable expectations, have adopted a course which at once renders the object of the Peshwa's wishes difficult of attainment and exposes the British Government to actual detriment and loss. As His Highness the Peshwa has uniformly shown a disposition to cultivate the friendship of the British Government and as he has in this instance disavowed all knowledge of the proceedings of his ministers, the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General is unwilling to entertain any suspicion unfavourable to His Highness. It is however incumbent on His Highness to maintain such a control over the proceedings of his ministers as may prevent their injuring the interests of his allies or shaking the friendship between those states and His Highness. The acts performed by the Peshwa's ministers in their master's name, must indeed be regarded by all foreign states as the acts of His Highness, nor is there any difference between the effect of such acts on foreign states and that of the immediate acts of His Highness.

On the above grounds, it is obvious that there would be no injustice in the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General's resolution, if he were to withdraw his attention from the Peshwa's interests in the negotiation with Kolhapore, and to settle the affairs of his own Government without any reference to His Highness, and that His Highness would have no reason to complain, if His Lordship were to retaliate for the opposition he has experienced from His Highness's ministers by relinquishing all concern in the Peshwa's affairs in the southern country and making such arrangements as should secure the tranquillity of the British Government, without consulting the Peshwa at all. Such is the substance of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General's observations on the Peshwa's conduct and I have it in command from His Lordship to make the following representation in His Lordship's name to His Highness

The British Government and your Highness's state have now for a considerable length of time maintained entire friendship and cordiality with each other. During that time the British Government has derived great satisfaction from your Highness's alliance, and the friendship of the British Government has not been destitute of advantage to your Highness. In the whole of this period there has been no example of counteraction on the part of one of the allies to the negotiations of the other nor has there ever occurred an instance in which an opposition of the interests of the two states was disclosed to the observation of friends and foes, until the present occasion, when your Highness's minister has taken step which exhibits a clashing of the interests of the two states and which if it had been successful would in the first instance have occasioned the failure of the plans of the British Government and in the end would have produced a much greater loss and inconvenience to your Highness's Government. If, in such a case, the British Government were to make the dismissal of that minister a condition of its assistance in the affairs now in progress, its conduct would neither be inconsistent with justice nor with friendship. It would indeed be the natural policy of the British Government (if it were intent on its own interests alone) to state to your Highness that your minister was acting as an enemy to your ally, and to represent the necessity of removing him from your presence for the preservation of the alliance. But as the Governor-General is convinced that your Highness has no share in the transaction alluded to, His Lordship is not disposed to make any representation or demand which might be disagreeable to your Highness's feelings and as he has received the most solemn protestations, from the Minister of his intention to exert himself as becomes him to maintain the alliance in future His Lordship is reluctant to take any step to his disadvantage. His Lordship has therefore resolved to suspend his just remonstrances on this occasion and to carry into effect the measures which have been begun agreeably to your Highness's wishes and the plan which has already been determined on. His Lordship however considers it as a duty which he owes to his friendship with your Highness to inform you that any repetition of the proceedings alluded to will compel him to make his own arrangements with the Rajah of Kolhapore independent of your Highness and that it may be expected that he will forbear from all concern in the settlement of your Highness's claims on your Jagirdars and publicly acquaint both parties with his renunciation of all interference in their disputes. It is also necessary to apprise your Highness that if an instance of hostility to the British Government should again occur on the part of any of your ministers, His Lordship will consider himself obliged to demand from your Highness's friendship the removal and disgrace of that minister.

(A true translation)

M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 24.—This is a very important dispatch addressed to Mr. Edmonstone, but a copy of which was probably sent to the Resident at Nagpur. It is rather unfortunate that a portion of the dispatch is missing. In this dispatch Elphinstone makes a masterly survey of the family history of the Southern Maratha Jagirdars, like the Patwardhans, Appa Desai, etc., and some of the ruling houses like Kolhapur. He also traces the circumstances of their rise to power, their relations with the Peshwa and the British, and their political status and importance as estimated by Duke of Wellington so far as the affairs of the Peshwa in particular and of the Deccan in general are concerned. He also suggests as to how their affairs and interests could be so settled, as to satisfy the Peshwa, ensure the most loyal relations between them and the Peshwa, and establish peace and security in the Maratha country.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECY. TO GOVERNMENT.

Poona, the 1812.

1. I have the honour to enclose a statement of the Peshwa's claims on the Southern Jagirdars. These papers were received and translated some months ago, but I was obliged to delay their transmission by an intimation I received from the Peshwa's ministers that they had discovered some further demands of which they would send me a statement. Not wishing to show any anxiety on the subject, I left it to the Minister to send this statement at his own convenience. In consequence I heard nothing of it till within these few days, when I took an opportunity of enquiring about it, and was informed that the Peshwa had no more claims to bring forward.

2. As the explanations afforded in the Peshwa's statement do not appear sufficiently full, I have endeavoured to collect such information as may assist the Government in discovering the grounds on which His Highness's claims stand, and the manner in which the present disputes regarding them have arisen. I shall first give an account of the persons on whom the Peshwa has demands.

3. These persons all hold lands of the Maratta Government, but as that Government began to grant lands at a very early period and has granted them to different descriptions of persons on very dissimilar conditions, it is of some importance to class the holders, and to ascertain to which description those on whom the Peshwa has claims, belong.

1st. In the first class may be placed relations of the Raja of Satara, who were sent to conquer countries and afterwards allowed to retain them. The more powerful of these chiefs consider the

Raja of the Marattas as their feudal superior but since the accession of the Peshwas at least they have acted rather as confederates than as Vassals. Of this description, are the Rajas of Berar and Kolhapore.

2nd. Officers who hold their lands from a date, which among the Marattas, may be reckoned ancient. Some of them contributed to establish the Maratta state, and received their lands at once as a reward for their services, and as the means of enabling them to maintain their troops. Others received lands for the later purpose alone. Others received them as the wages of their personal service. They are all considered as under the Peshwa's authority.

3rd. Chiefs whom the Peshwas detached on foreign expeditions, allowing them for the maintenance of their armies, a share of the countries which they might conquer. Sindhia, Holkar, and others belong to this class.

4th. Military officers to whom lands were allotted by the Peshwa in Jaidad or as it is here called Serinjaum. These persons did not hold their lands by a feudal tenure, as has been supposed, but were entrusted with the administration of them on behalf of the Peshwa. They were to apply the revenue to the payment of a particular body of troops. The number and pay of the troops, and the personal allowance of the Chief, were fixed. These allowances were issued under the inspection and control of Durrukdars, officers holding their appointments immediately from the Peshwa, and accounts of the revenue of the Serinjams were submitted to the Peshwa every year. From this, it appears that persons of this class are not Jagheerdars, though that term has been so long applied to those to the southward, that it would occasion obscurity to alter it. This is a very numerous class, and includes persons holding lands from the Value of 20,00,000 Rupees to that of 10,000 Rupees. The Chiefs to whom the Peshwa's present claims relate, are all of this last description, except the Rajah of Kolhapore. They are:—

Patwardhans—

Chintaman Rao,

Ramchandra Parashram (commonly
called Appa Sahib)

Trimbak Rao Raghunath and
Narayan Rao Gangadhar

Madhoo Rao Rastia,

Bapuji Gokhla,

Appa Desai Neepaunkar, and
the Desai of Kittoor.

4. The Patwardhans are descended from Hari Bhut, a Brahmin Priest whose son Govind Rao appears to have been the first of his family who entered the military service of the Poona State. It is immaterial to ascertain when he entered the service, but he first had lands allotted for the payment of troops by Madhoo Rao the first in the Arabic year 1164 about 47 years ago. The Tynaut Zaubeth, or instrument fixing the value of the lands to be assigned, and the numbers and pay of the troops, was made out in the name of Govind Rao alone, but personal allowances were fixed for his nephews Parashram Bhow and Nilkanth Rao, and it was stated, that of 8,000 horse which Govind Rao was to furnish 2,400 belonged to Parashram Bhow and 1,000 to Nilkanth Rao. The Serinjami lands appear afterwards to have been divided between those three persons, and their shares are now quite distinct. The Tynaut Zaubeth, however, continued in the name of Govind Rao till his death, when a new one was issued in the name of his son, Waman Rao, and on his death, another was made out in the name of his (Waman Rao's) grandson Chintaman Rao for all the lands allotted to the Patwardhans. The number of persons holding personal allowances, is increased in this last paper, but the conditions of service remain the same. The affairs of the Patwardhans were not always managed by their nominal chief. While Parashram Bhow was alive his abilities gave him a great ascendancy over all his relations; at present the family is entirely divided, but Chintaman Rao is the nominal head. The present Chiefs are Chintaman Rao, who resides at Sangli; Appa Sahib, who resides at Tausgaon; Trimbak Rao Nilkanth of Kooroondwar; and Narain Rao Gangadhar of Merich. This last chief does not derive his lands from the original division; his father Balla Sahib was the guardian of his nephew Chintaman Rao, and usurped Merich and other places during the minority of his ward. These shares were confirmed to him about three years ago, by a sunnud from the Peshwa. The Patwardhans appear to have served without any change in their condition till the war of the allies against Tippoo in 1791/92. Parashram Bhow then received orders to raise a large body of troops in addition to his serinjami horse, and on the conclusion of the war, the conquered countries, including Savanore, were assigned for the repayment of the expense he had incurred in maintaining those troops. On the death of the last Peshwa (in 1795) Parashram Bhow attempted to place Chimnaje Appa, the present Peshwa's younger brother, on the musnud. The attempt failed, and in the end, Parashram Bhow was made prisoner and the whole of his lands were sequestrated. Dhoondoo Pant Gokla was employed to occupy the country thus resumed, and Nana Furnavees, who then conducted the Peshwa's affairs, invited the Rajah of Kolhapore to assist Gokhla in dispossessing the Bhow's officers. All the lands held by Parashram Bhow were, by these means, recovered, and placed under Moru Pant Furkia, the brother of Hari Pant, who held them for a year. The distractions in the Peshwa's Government increased during this period, Nana

Furnavees was seized by Sindhia, and the Peshwa himself remained almost a prisoner in the hands of that Chieftain. The Rajah of Kolhapore, who had been so imprudently engaged by Nana in the settlement of the southern countries seized the opportunity afforded by the weakness of the Poona Government and occupied Savanore whence he was with difficulty expelled by Gokhla. The Peshwa now released Parashram Bhow, and restored him to his possessions, and the Bhow soon after engaged in a war with the Rajah of Kolhapore in which he lost his life. This event took place in 1799. The relations of Parashram Bhow continued the war against the Rajah of Kolhapore, in which they were at first assisted by a Brigade of Sindhia's and by Gokhla on the Peshwa's part. During these transactions the famous freebooter Dhoondia Wagh began his depredations, and in 1800, Lord Wellington entered the Peshwa's country in pursuit of him. About the time Lord Wellington reached the frontier, Dhoondia surprized the Maratta troops who were proceeding to join the British Detachment. Gokhla was killed, and Chintaman Rao wounded, and from that time, Lord Wellington appears to have received little assistance from any of the Maratta Chiefs, except Appa Sahib. In consequence, His Lordship made over to him all the forts belonging to the Peshwa which were retaken from Dhoondia and his adherents. While Lord Wellington was still on the frontier, Sindhia compelled the Peshwa to make over all the lands of the Patwardhans to him, and he sent an army about the year 1800, to take possession. At this time, they lost some of their Serinjami lands which they have not since recovered. They were saved from any serious loss by Sindhia's march from the Deccan, but before long, they were attacked by the Peshwa, who made many unsuccessful attempts to seize their persons and to occupy their lands; at last, on Holkar's approach to Poona, the Peshwa accommodated his differences with the whole Patwardhan family. The war with the Rajah of Kolhapore still continued, and was carried on till 1804, when it was put a stop to by Lord Wellington. Since that period, the Patwardhans have fallen into disputes among themselves owing to an attempt of Chintaman Rao's to recover the territory taken from him in his infancy, by his uncle, but which it seems had been allotted to the usurper on a settlement of the family lands, which was made by the Patwardhans after the death of Parashram Bhow. Chintaman Rao has sometimes attended at Poona since the treaty of Bassein and a small body of his troops is now serving in Savanore, but he, as well as the other Patwardhans, have generally rather given uneasiness by his restlessness, than afforded any aid to the Peshwa.

5. The revenue of the country assigned to the Patwardhans, appears by the list transmitted in Colonel Close's letter to your address on the 11th of July 1804, to amount to Rupees 21,84,345-6-0 some few of the lands, mentioned in that list, have fallen into the hands of Sindhia, and into those of the Rajah of Kolhapore, and the remainder with the lands claimed by the Peshwa, constituted as far as I can learn, the whole of their possessions.

6. The lands of the Patwardhans and the troops which they are bound to maintain, are divided among these four chiefs in the following proportions:—

Chintaman Rao's revenue (Horse 1800)—7,13,623 Rupees.

Appa Sahib's revenue (Horse 2000)—7,54,319 Rupees.

Trimbak Rao's revenue (Horse 750)—2,35,238 Rupees.

Narain Rao's revenue (Horse 1300)—4,50,762 Rupees.

7. It is observable, that the allowed expenses of the Patwardhans were always above 25 lacs, and the revenue assigned to them, appears never to have exceeded 24 lacs and latterly to have fallen under 22 lacs. To obviate this inconvenience, it is agreed in the first Tynaut Zaubeth, that until the Serinjami is completed, the number of troops is to be proportioned to the revenue of the lands. The number of troops in the original plan was 8,000, it was afterwards reduced to 6,597, and since the occupation of part of Serinjami lands by Sindhia it has been reduced to 5,950.

8. The ancestor of the Rastia's was a Banker. The first of the family to whom lands were allotted, was Bhikaji, who received, in 1167 Fussilee 49 years ago, an assignment of a country, the revenue of which amounted to 10,00,000 Rupees, 9 lacs were allotted to the support of 3000 Horse, and one lac to the payment of the arrears which were at the time due to Rastiah. In 1169, the last mentioned revenue was ordered to be applied to the maintenance of an additional body of horse, and other lands were allotted for the payment of the arrears. In 1800, the Peshwa seized Madhoo Rao, the present head of the Rastia family, occupied the lands belonging to the family in Guzerat and Khandesh, and endeavoured to take possession of their country to the southward; in this he had only a partial success, and in 1802, when Holkar was approaching Poona, he released Madhoo Rao, and restored what he had siezed of his possession to the southward and in Khandesh. Madhoo Rao has since generally resided at Poona, and attended the Peshwa with two or three hundred men. He behaves with decent obedience, but does no real service.

9. His Serinjami is valued at 10,41,008 Rupees, and he is bound to furnish 3,302 Horse.

10. About three lacs and a half of the Serinjami revenue is drawn from lands in Khandesh. The rest from lands to the southward.

11. Bapoojee Gokhla's uncle, Dhoondoo Pant, was originally an officer under Parashram Bhow. He was afterwards employed immediately by the Peshwa, and had half the districts of Noulgoond and Gudduck allotted to him, in Serinjam, for the maintenance of half of his troops; the other half being paid from the Treasury. He was killed by Dhoondia Wagh, and was succeeded by Bapoojee the present Chief. Bapuji Gokhla was the only one of the Peshwa's servants who accompanied the British Army in 1803, and his present Serinjami was conferred on him at the instance

of the British Government, after the conclusion of that campaign. When Dhondu Pant died, he was in possession of a large portion of Savanore, from which he was allowed to collect money to pay his troops; this was given up by Baupoojee in 1804, at the request of the British Government, and his present Serinjam is much under the expense of the troops which he ought to maintain. He was employed to quell the rebellion of the Prittee Nidhi, and to occupy his country; this he did, after a long struggle.

12. His Serinjamee revenue ought to amount to 1,121,500 Rupees, but he has only received sunnuds for seven lacks.

13. The troops which he is bound to maintain are 2,200 Cavalry and 2,500 Infantry, with guns.

14. Appa Desai is the hereditary Desai of Neepani. He was formerly attached to the Raja of Kolhapore, and afterwards to Sindhia; from the last mentioned Chief he received some lands to which he had claims in the Peshwa's dominions, but he was not in the service of the state of Poona till 1803, when Lord Wellington prevailed upon him to accompany the British Army, and afterwards procured his present Serinjam for him. The office of Surlushkar was at the same time, conferred on him. He has since served on several occasions, particularly in the reduction of the rebellion in Savanore, which he accomplished in a few weeks after the Patwardhans had protracted their operations for a long time, and he gave up all the country he recovered without any difficulty or delay. He was for a long time engaged in a war with the Rajah of Kolhapore who claimed two of the districts composing Appa Desai's Serinjam. He defeated the Rajah, and took a portion of his country. Appa Desai was also detached by the Peshwa into Sawant Warree, for the purpose of driving out the troops of the Rajah of Kolhapore which had been sent to occupy that country.

15. His Serinjami lands are rated at 10,00,000 or thereabouts. His force is 2,000 Horse and 500 foot. His own country may be worth 60,000 Rupees a year.

16. The Desai of Kittoor has long been tributary to the Marattas, his country was conquered by Tippoo, and afterwards ceded to the Mahrattas. It is still doubtful whether the Peshwa has any right over the country of Kittoor, besides that of levying the tribute. The Desai however received a grant of Serinjami from the Peshwa in the name of his son. This assignment was only made about a year ago, and great part of it has not yet taken effect.

17. His own country yields him about four lacks of Rupees, but his Serinjam amounts to only 1,49,900. He is to maintain 473 Horse.

18. The Rajah of Kolhapore though nominally dependent on the Raja of Satara, may be regarded as a foreign power. None of the Peshwa's claims imply any other relation. I shall now proceed to the consideration of the Peshwa's claims.

19. The Peshwa's claims are, 1st that the Jagheerdaars shall perform the conditions on which they hold their Jagheers, and second that they shall give up certain lands and revenues which they have usurped from His Highness. I shall first examine the conditions on which the Jagheers are held, and the manner in which those conditions have been, and are performed.

20. These have been supposed to be vague and undefined, and to arise out of ancient and varying customs, originally introduced in the reigns of the first Maratta Raja, but the first introduction of these families into the Peshwa's service, will be found to be recent and they appear, on their entrance, to have received regular commissions, specifying the value of the lands, to be assigned to each, and the conditions on which they were to be held.

21. These instruments certainly refer to the customs of other Serinjamsee Chiefs, but it happens luckily that the only Chief who is specifically referred to, is almost the only one who has preserved his allegiance to the Peshwa unaltered, till the present day. All doubtful customs can therefore be settled by a reference to his practice. This is the Vinchoor Jaghirdar. The grounds on which most of the Peshwa's present claims rest, are however expressly stated in the Tynaut Zaubtehs, so that there will probably be little occasion for referring to ancient custom, in course of the present investigation. Some alterations may have taken place since these Tynaut Zaubtehs were issued, and they must of course be considered.

22. Translations containing the substance of the Tynaut Zaubtehs granted to Govind Rao, the first of the Patwardhans who served the Poona state; to his successor Waman Rao, and to Waman Rao's successor Chintaman Rao, the present Chief are annexed to this report, as are translations containing the substance of the Tynaut Zaubtehs issued to Anand Rao Bhikajee, the first of the Rastia's who held lands; to Gokhla, and to the Desai of Kittoor. Appa Desai's lands, were granted at the same time, and on the same terms, with Gokhla's. As the first of the series of Tynaut Zaubtehs issued to the Patwardhans refers to the usage of the Vinchoor Jagirdar, I have annexed a copy (No. 1) of the conditions laid down in his Tynaut Zaubteh. None of these papers have been procured officially, but they were extracted from the Dufter, and may I think, be depended on.

23. The following appear to be the original terms of all the grants alluded to—

1st. A body of troops, the numbers, description, and pay of which is fixed, to be maintained by the Jagheerdar. The personal allowance to the Jagheerdar is fixed, allowances are also granted in some cases to his relations, and to some of his ministerial officers.

and. The Jagheerdar's troops may be mustered as often as the Peshwa pleases. The pay of any of the troops who are absent from Muster, must be refunded by the Jagheerdar, no men are to pass Muster, that are not of a certain description, and mounted on Horses of a certain value.

3rd. All the expenses of the Serinjami troops without exception are to be paid from the assigned Revenue.

4th. The expenses of collecting the revenue, and protecting the Jagheer in common times, are to be paid from the assigned revenue, a portion of the Serinjam is always allotted to this purpose in the original assignment. There are exceptions to this last rule, in particular cases, which are specified in the Tynaut Zaubteh.

5th. From these conditions arise the Peshwa's claims to the services of the Jagheerdars, and to a commutation in money for their services in years when they were not called on.

24. The Peshwa's other claims relating to the Sirinjaumee lands and troops, are founded on custom if they have any foundation at all.

1st. His Highness claims a right to appoint Durrucdars or officers employed in inspecting the management of the Serinjamee lands and paying the troops. This claim does not appear to be disputed, but some of the Jagheerdars do not employ the Durruckdars on the offices to which they are appointed. The Peshwa insists on their being so employed.

2nd. The Peshwa claims certain fees which he states to have always been paid to his ministers by the Jagirdars, proportioned to the number of their troops. These were probably of the same nature with the fees levied by the ministers on the troops paid from the Treasury.

3rd. His Highness also claims a fine on the appointment of a new incumbent to any of the Ministerial offices of which the salaries are paid by Government.

4th. He also claims a sum of money in consequence of a rule introduced by himself in 1208, that a Day's pay should be stopped monthly from the sibundy, or troops employed for preserving the internal tranquillity of the Serinjaumee lands, and that a month's pay should be stopped yearly from the salaries of the ministerial officers both for his Highness's benefit.

5th. His Highness further claims the arrears of a contribution, which he levied on the Jagheerdars in 1197. I do not know by what right this contribution was levied, and I suspect it was levied by force, and without any right at all.

25. I have heard of no other conditions introduced by custom on either side, except that of continuing the heirs of the Jagirdars in the employments held by their predecessors.

26. The conditions above enumerated appear to have been always fulfilled till the accession of the present Peshwa.

27. The Peshwa's reign began with the rebellion of Parashram Bhow and it is from that time that almost all the present irregularities appear to have commenced. After Parashram Bhow was restored to his Jagheer, he was ordered to join General Harris

in the attack on Tippoo Sultan. He had just been restored to his Jagheer after a long imprisonment, and the court of Poona refused to assist him with money. He was also employed on a national war with the Rajah of Kolhapore, whose country was contiguous to the Bhow's Jagheer. It is not, therefore, surprising that the orders for his march were not obeyed. It seems, indeed, to be doubtful whether they ever were seriously issued. Rastiah received no order to join General Harris but was directed to act against the Rajah of Kolhapore. Dhondu Pant Gokhla, the other great Jagheerdar of that time, was directed to march, and was preparing himself for executing the order, when Serengapatam fell.

28. All the Jagheerdars obeyed the next orders they received, which were to co-operate with Lord Wellington against Dhondia. Rastiah alone did not make his appearance, I believe he was at that time at Poona.

29. The next occasion on which the presence of the Jagheerdars was required, was the war with Holkar. Previously to that period the Peshwa had greatly disgusted the Jagheerdars by his treacherous seizure of Rastiah and by his violent and vindictive conduct towards the Patwardhans. A reconciliation had, indeed, taken place between His Highness and the Jagheerdars, but it could scarcely have been expected that any of them would have trusted their persons in his power, and still less that they would make any exertion to support his Government. Several Jagheerdars did however, attend, and among them Chintaman Rao Patwardhan, but on the first appearance of serious danger, that Chief quitted the Peshwa, as did most of the Chief persons of the State.

30. The next service for which the Jagheerdars were called out was the recovery of the Peshwa's capital in 1803, and on that occasion their conduct was perfectly consistent with their engagements, and with the former order of things. The presence of Lord Wellington's Army in the southern countries, and his personal influence with most of the Jagheerdars, induced the greater part of them to accompany him to Poona, or repair thither by themselves. Major General Close states in a dispatch dated May 21st 1803 (a few days after the Peshwa's entry into Poona) that no sirdar of any consequence was absent except the Prati Nidhi, the Jagirdar of Akalkote, and Mallujee Raja Goreporeh, whom the General expected soon to join. The Prati Nidhi has since rebelled, and has been deprived of his lands, and it is probable that the other two did not refuse to attend. Mallojee Raja had just before distinguished himself in the war with Holkar, in which he accompanied the Peshwa's army and was desperately wounded in one of its defeats and the Rajah of Akalkote, who adhered to the Peshwa during all his misfortunes, afterwards repaired to Poona, and continues to this day to attend at all times with his contingent.

31. The breaking out of the war with Sindhia and the Rajah of Berar, appears to have had a great effect on some of the Jagirdars. When they were ordered to join Lord Wellington, Rastiah professed obedience, but urged his poverty and remained at Poona, from which place he some time after set out for his Jagheer. The Patwardhans assumed a more decided line, they positively refused to proceed except on certain conditions, and even when the Peshwa showed a disposition to listen to those conditions they marched off to their Jagheers in defiance of the Peshwa's orders, and without regard to his entreaties, and they soon after opened a correspondence with Sindhia, acting through the whole war as neutral powers.

32. From that time, neither Rastiah nor the Patwardhans have served on any important occasion. They have sometimes come to Poona where Rastiah indeed resides. Rastiah once sent two hundred horse to serve with Colonel Wallace, and the Patwardhan's once obeyed the Peshwa's orders in attacking the rebels in Savanore but in that instance, they acted entirely for their own interests, and their general conduct justifies the Peshwa's complaint that instead of serving themselves, they oblige His Highness to keep some of his own troops from all other service to watch their motions.

33. I cannot ascertain when the fees and fines began to be withheld, nor does the question appear of much consequence. I shall now mention the lands claimed by the Peshwa, which are specified in the annexed list, Nos. 8, 9 and 10 contain the claims against the Patwardhans. No. 11 those against Rastiah; No. 12 those against Gokhla; No. 13 those against the Rajah of Kittor; No. 14 those against the Rajah of Kolhapore; and No. 15 those against Appa Desai.

34. Some of these lands came legally into the occupation of the Jagirdars, but are unjustly retained; others were usurped with little or no colour of right, during the confusion in the southern countries and particularly after the present Peshwa's accession, and the rebellion of Parashram Bhow; a period which appears, from Mr. Strachey's correspondence, to be constantly referred to for all the great changes in the Southern countries.

35. There are in all parts of the country, villages called Domehlee, the whole Revenue of which is granted to individuals, either in rewards of services or for other reasons. These villages are never assigned as Serinjaum. When a district is allotted to maintain troops, the revenue of the Domehlee villages is always deducted from that of the district, and the remainder gives the sum at which the district is rated in the Sunnud. From this it is evident that the Jagirdars have no claim on Domehlee villages, more than on any part of the Peshwa's country which is not assigned to them. Yet as these villages are intermixed with the Serinjaumee lands, the Jagheerdars are often tempted to take possession of them on pretence that the possessors have no sunnuds for them, and that they

ought to revert to the Peshwa. This practice seems to have begun early, as many of the Tynaut Zaubtchs stipulate, that persons holding Domehlee lands are not to be questioned about their sunnuds, but to be left to settle directly with the Peshwa. Many of these lands have now been usurped probably most of them during the time of confusion above alluded to

36. Enaum and Zemeenee are grants of the same kind as Domehlee. Enaum is a grant of part only of the revenue of a village, and Zemeenee is a grant of a portion of land. The history of the usurpation of those grants, and the state of the claims of the Peshwa's and Jagheerdars are the same as in the case of Domehlee.

37. The land Revenue of the Marrattas is not collected under one simple head, as is usual in most parts of India, but is divided into several branches, arising from the particular manner in which they were acquired, for example, before the Marattas had begun to make extensive conquests, they extorted from the Mogul Government a share of the revenues of particular provinces. This share was called Sirdaismukhi. After the Mahrattas had acquired the sole possession of the provinces from which it was defined, the Sirdeshmukhi was still kept distinct from the other revenue. They have other divisions of this sort besides the customs, and some taxes, which are naturally distinct from the land Revenue. It is usual, in granting Serinjamu lands, to reserve some of these branches of revenue, but as they are to be collected from lands of which the Jagirdar has possession, they naturally fall into his hands in times of confusion.

38. The Domehlee lands, and some of the smaller Serinjaums are often resumed by the Government. When these are situated near the Serinjaum of a considerable Chief, he is often employed to take possession of them, and of late the Jagheerdars have retained many of the lands which they have thus been employed to occupy

39. They also have frequently taken possession of resumed lands in their own name, on pretence that the former possessor owed them money, and sometimes without even that pretext.

40. Defenceless villages intermixed with Serinjaumee lands, seem to have been sometimes usurped in times of confusion without any pretext at all

41. The Jagheerdars have sometimes conquered countries from each other, during their own petty wars. This is in reality an usurpation from the Peshwa, and it affects His Highness directly by preventing the persons to whom those lands were granted, from performing the conditions on which they received them.

42. It was usual in all times when troops were required, for the Government to authorize the Jagheerdars to raise men in addition to their Serinjaumee force. This description of troops is called Etalauke. The expense incurred by the Jagheerdar in raising

and maintaining them ought to have been paid from the Treasury but more frequently a portion of land was assigned to Jagheerdar for the payment of the debt. This was sometimes granted for a definite time, but more frequently till the debt should be extinguished. Some of the Jagheerdars are stated by the Peshwa to have retained lands granted for this purpose long after the debt was paid. To entitle the Jagheerdar to payment of Etlaukee Troops, it is necessary that he should have an order from the Peshwa for raising them.

43. Lands have sometimes been allotted for other purposes which the Jagheerdars refuse to give when the occasion on which they were granted is past. Of this kind is the village of Wattaur given to maintain Parashram Bhow's Noubat Khanna, and still retained by Appa Sahib.

44. Jagheerdars have sometimes been employed to conquer foreign countries and provinces occupied by rebels; of late the Jagheerdars have generally retained the countries so acquired; of this description are the land of the Prati Nidhi taken by Gokhla; those taken from the rebels in Savanore by Appa Sahib, and those conquered from the Rajah of Kolhapore by Appa Desai. The two former affairs have been partly adjusted, the latter remains to be settled.

45. Most of the lands now claimed have been usurped in one or other of the above ways. When they have been taken in any other manner, it will generally be stated in the annexed lists.

46. From these sources arise the Peshwa's claims to lands and Revenues usurped or withheld from His Highness on any of his Serinjaumee Chiefs or holders of grants from his Government.

47. On those claims depends His Highness's claim to the amount of Revenue appropriated by the Jagheerdars in consequence of their usurpations.

48. It may not be improper in this place to mention that the Jagirdars have also claims on the Peshwa; those of Chintaman Rao and Appa Sahib, were delivered to Mr. Strachey in 1804. They are annexed to this report with the remarks and explanations which Mr. Strachey added.

49. Chintaman Rao's claims are very trifling. Appa Sahib's relate to places in his Serinjaum of which he has been deprived. Offices held by his father to which he has not been appointed. Promises made to his father and not fulfilled. Jagirs belonging to his relations and dependents resumed or claimed by the Peshwa. Debts owed by the Peshwa to his father, and lands of his, usurped by the Rajah of Kolhapore and the Desai of Kittoor.

50. Some of these claims seem reasonable, some demands have been satisfied, and some are entirely inadmissible. What has been said will give some idea of the history and present state of the disputes between the Jagheerdars and the Government; before

I offer my suggestions regarding the mode of adjusting them, it is necessary that I should state what has already been done for that purpose, and what have been the effects of the various lines of policy adopted at different times by the British Government.

51. Many attempts were made to bring about a temporary adjustment during the interval between the Peshwa's arrival at Poona and the war in 1803. They all failed, partly from the Peshwa's unaccommodating spirit, and still more from the unreasonableness of the Patwardhans.

52. Immediately after the war, Lord Wellington turned his serious attention to the means of effecting a permanent adjustment of these disputes. The principal obstacle which His Lordship met with in this settlement arose from the obstinacy and unreasonableness of the Peshwa, who would be satisfied with nothing but the destruction of the Jagheerdars. His Highness asserted with apparent truth, that the Jagirdars had forfeited all claims to their lands by their neglect of the conditions on which those lands were granted to them, and to this position he adhered in spite of all that Lord Wellington could urge respecting the former services of the Jagirdars, and the extreme impolicy of pressing such a measure at a time when His Highness's Government was scarcely established in his capital.

53. After a variety of discussions on this subject, Lord Wellington addressed two dispatches to the Governor-General, in which he submitted his sentiments on the whole question to his Excellency's decision.

54. In the first of these dispatches dated March 7th 1804, after animadverting in very severe terms, on the Peshwa's conduct, particularly his implicable hostility to the great chiefs of his Empire, and his encouragement of a foreign prince (the Rajah of Kolhapore) in laying waste such of His Highness's own territories as were possessed by the Patwardhans, His Lordship gives his opinion in the following words. "There is no doubt whatever that the Peshwa's Government cannot exist on its present footing, unless the British Government interfere in some manner respecting the southern Jagirdars. There will be a contest in the Southern part of the Empire, which will, in its consequences affect Mysore and the Company's territories; they will be obliged to interfere in the end, probably with less effect than they can at present, and in the mean time the benefit of the services of the southern Jagirdars and their troops is entirely lost."

55. Lord Wellington then states his opinion that the first thing to be done is to check the Rajah of Kolhapore (to accomplish this, His Lordship shortly after took measures which were attended with complete effect).

56. Lord Wellington then goes on with the following observations. "In respect to the Southern Jagirdars, the following lines of conduct may be pursued:—

1st. To concur with the Peshwa in destroying them.

2nd. To leave them and the Peshwa to their fate, and allow both parties to settle their disputes in the best manner they can, without interfering at all.

3rd. To interfere in a certain degree to ascertain the extent of the service to which the Peshwa is entitled from the Southern Jagirdars, to oblige them to afford it, and on the other hand to protect them from the oppression of the Peshwa's Government, and to guarantee to them their possessions so long as they shall continue to serve the Peshwa with fidelity.

4th. To make them at once independent states, with the protection, arbitration and guarantee of the British Government.

57. In his second dispatch which is dated March 21st 1804, Lord Wellington acquaints the Governor-General that he had conferred with Major General Close on the subject of his last dispatch, and proceeds to announce his decision in favour of the 3rd mode of settlement, adverted to in his former letter. He states the objections which had been so often urged against the first plan; observes, that if the second were adopted, the British Government would be obliged to interfere at last, and that in the meantime, many calamities would be produced, and the danger and difficulty of the final settlement would be greatly increased. The 4th plan he thinks would be the best for the company, but adds, that it must be founded on the fact that the Peshwa has broken his treaty with the Company, and other facts on which he is not able to decide. After using different arguments for the necessity of adopting the 3rd plan, His Lordship concludes by recommending that (if affairs should settle to the Northward) it should be completed before the approaching rainy season.

58. The Governor-General, in reply to this dispatch, approves of Lord Wellington's sentiments and directs him to proceed to the execution of the 3rd plan, stated in his letter of March 7th. His Lordship authorizes Lord Wellington to depute an officer to the Southward to conduct the necessary enquiries and negotiations, observes that the rains will be the most eligible season for the arrangement, and that if any external cause should require the march of the British troops to the Southward, such a movement may facilitate the proposed settlement with the Jagheerdars. His Lordship, however, prohibits the employment of the troops on any service not required by treaty, and in a subsequent part of his dispatch expresses, in unqualified terms, his utter disapprobation of the schemes of vengeance and rapine which the Peshwa had mediated against the Jagirdars.

59. In consequence of these orders, Lord Wellington dispatched Mr. Strachey on a mission to the Southern Jagheerdars, and instructed him to enter into terms with them.

60. The following is the substance of the articles which Lord Wellington ordered to be concluded:—

1st. The Peshwa and Jagheerders to forget past injuries, the British Government to guarantee to each Jagheerdar, his personal safety, and that of his adherents as long as he served the Peshwa with fidelity.

2nd. The British Government to guarantee to each Jagheerdar his lands held by regular sunnuds as long as he serves the Peshwa with zeal and fidelity. The British Government to decide what lands are regularly granted, and the Jagheerders to hold the lands in their possession pending the discussion.

3rd. The condition of the above guarantee is the service of the Jagheerders, each Jagheerdar to be excused one-third of his original quota on the grounds of the famine and the wars (which had long raged at the time when these instructions were issued). This reduced quota to be always ready when called on by the Peshwa, and a third of it always to attend at Poona under the command of a member of the Jagheerdar's family. The British Government to settle the usual number of troops to be supplied by each Jagheerdar; in the meantime the whole quota to be furnished. If the Jagheerders infringe this article, the 1st and 2nd to be void.

4th. All lands held without sunnuds, and all lands which any Jagheerdar may hold as Comavisdar (or Collector) to be given up. The British Government will interest itself to prevail on the Peshwa to allow each Jagheerdar to retain such of the places above alluded to as may be essential to the safety of his Jagheer and the Jagheerdar can give security for the regular payment of the Revenue.

61. Mr. Strachey was instructed to allow the Jagheerders to settle their affairs at Poona if they preferred doing so, to entering into engagements with him. Accordingly Rastiah and Appa Sahib agreed to come to Poona, and expressed the greatest readiness to settle with the Peshwa. Chintaman Rao on the contrary, received Mr. Strachey's proposals very coldly, and declined having any negotiation with him; Mr. Strachey was then instructed to retire to Mysore.

62. The war with Holkar soon after assumed a serious aspect, and all thoughts of settling with the Southern Jagheerders were for the time laid aside. Lord Wellington declares in a dispatch dated the 21st of January 1805 that we ought to wait till the irritation produced on the minds of the Peshwa and Jagheerders by mutual injuries, should subside, and till the allies are at peace externally, before we endeavoured to establish the Peshwa's rights over the Serinjaumee lands.

63. When the subject was resumed by the Government, after the General peace, it was declared to the Resident that all interference between the Peshwa and the Jagheerders was to be obtained from.

64. It is obvious that this is the policy proposed in the 2nd of Lord Wellington's plans, which was rejected.....the grounds above stated. Its adoption has by no means been productive of the inconveniences which His Lordship apprehended, at least to the extent which might naturally have been looked for.

65. The causes of this favourable result will probably be found in the following facts:—

1st. The Jagheerdars were not aware of the resolution of the British Government not to interfere in their affairs. The Peshwa, in all probability, held out to them, that any outrage on their part would draw down on them the vengeance of the British Government.

2nd. It was impossible for the Resident entirely to abstain from interfering with the Jagheerdars. Accordingly Major General Close used, on all occasions, when the conduct of those Chiefs appeared to threaten the public tranquillity, to expostulate with them either through their Vakeels or by letter. General Close always made these communications in the most cautious and guarded terms, but it can scarce be supposed that they did not tend strongly to confirm the opinion held by the Jagheerdars, that the British Government would support the Peshwa with its forces if His Highness's affairs required it.

3rd. A British force was kept on the Mulpurba during the period when the disturbed state of India was most likely to have encouraged the Southern Jagirdars to commit excesses, and Major General Close in his dispatches to Government, dated 27th July 1805, appears to have thought that it was the presence of that force alone, which kept the Jagheerdars within any bounds.

4th. The disunion of the Jagheerdars enabled the Peshwa to seize on the lands of many of the weaker Jagheerdars, and he was even able to dispossess the Prati Nidhi, one of the most considerable of the whole body. These examples could not but have a great effect in restraining the others, and obliging them to observe some caution in their behaviour.

66. All these considerations were not, however, sufficient to keep the Jagheerdars in perfect order. The Prati Nidhi, about five years ago, plundered the Peshwa's country, and conducted himself in so outrageous a manner that the Peshwa was obliged to reduce him by force of arms. His Jagheer was attacked and himself made prisoner, but the war in which this engaged the Peshwa (?) was not concluded till within these few months. Soon after the beginning of the Prati Nidhi's rebellion, Chintaman Rao threatened to join that Chief if the Peshwa took any measures against him, and did actually join him with his troops, by which means the Peshwa was reduced to the necessity of withdrawing his army nor was it till after fresh losses on the Peshwa's part that he was able to subdue the Prati Nidhi. Lord Wellington, sometime, gave it as his opinion, that we should be right if we acted against both the Prati

Nidhi, and Chintaman Rao but that, from the employment of our troops on other services, we had not the means. Chintaman Rao has more than once assembled armies and attacked the Peshwa's country, and those of the Jagheerdars who are in obedience to His Highness. On those occasions, it was only by the greatest exertions on the part of the Peshwa, and the strongest remonstrances on that of the Resident, that he was prevailed on to put a stop to his depredations. He has also done considerable damage to the Peshwa by harbouring freebooters pursued by His Highness's troops. It is only a few months, since Chintaman Rao attacked the Peshwa's districts of Belgaum. A Battle was fought between him and the Governor but the Peshwa having sent a strong reinforcement to Belgaum, Chintaman Rao was obliged to desist. The conduct of Appa Sahib has never been so violent as that of Chintaman Rao, and it has been too lately before the Government, to require being brought forward again. The other Patwardhans have been little heard of. They are probably the least turbulent of the family. During the wars with Sindhia and Holkar, the Patwardhans have always corresponded with the enemy. They received an agent of Holkar's with particular respect, and allowed an officer of that Chieftains to recruit a considerable force which assembled at Meritch. In short, though the Jagirdars never joined in any confederacy, often occasioned much uneasiness, and a considerable British force was always required to watch them. Besides these more violent proceedings, the Patwardhans, not only kept their usurpations, but in several instances made new ones, on a very large scale. The whole of the old Jagirdars also withheld their contingents from all services not connected with their own interest. All the Jagirdars were called on last year to march to the frontier for its protection against the Pindaries, but not one stirred. Even Gokhla and Appa Desai who have received their Jagheers since the Treaty of Basseen and who were at the first perfectly faithful, have been infected by the example of their neighbours. They have in consequence joined in the civil wars of the Jagirdars, made considerable usurpations from the Peshwa, nor could they any longer be depended on for service, unless in very favourable circumstances. They also refused to march against the Pindaries last year. The effects of this unsettled state of the Southern countries have spread to the Peshwa's province of Savanore which besides less important disorders, has once been in open rebellion. The bodies of freebooters which the present state of the Southern countries has created, have also, on two occasions at least made incursions into the territories of the Nizam and the Rajah of Mysore.

67. This state of affairs is, however considerably altered for the better since the interference of the British Government in the disputes between the Peshwa and Appa Sahib. Many places were recovered from Appa Sahib by the immediate operation of that interference and his disposition to encroach has probably been checked. Rastiah has since given up the strong fort of Baddaamy,

and the Pergunnah of Baugulcote and Jauly Haul. Gokhla has given up the forts of the Prati Nidhi's country, and has left the settlement of the lands to the Peshwa. Chintaman Rao has sent 500 men to serve under Sirsoobahdar of Savanore. They were first employed against Hoongoondy, a village which rebelled in Savanore. After the capture of that place the same troops served against Hoobly, and are still with the Sirsoobahdar. Appa Desai at present shows an inclination to come to some adjustment about the conquests gained from Kolhapore.

68. In considering the measures which may now be adopted with respect to the Jagheerdars, the following questions present themselves:—

1st. Whether the Peshwa's claims are just ;

2nd. Whether the British Government is bound to assist, the Peshwa in enforcing his claims, supposing them to be just ;

3rd. Supposing the British Government at liberty to grant or refuse its assistance as it may think proper, whether it is expedient to assist the Peshwa ; and

4th. To what extent it is expedient to assist him.

69. The first question cannot be answered with any precision till the answers of the Jagirdars to the Peshwa's demands, have been heard. It seems, however, to be admitted on all hands, that some of the Peshwa's claims are just, particularly His Highness's claims to the Military service of the Jagheerdars. The second question depends upon the application of the terms of the treaty of Bassein to the present case, and the decision of it must rest with the Government. As the remaining questions depend, in some measure, on local information, I shall take the liberty of offering some remarks on them.

70. In case we do not interfere to settle the disputes at once, one or other of three courses of events must take place, either the Peshwa will reduce the Jagheerdars, or the Jagheerdars will entirely throw off their allegiance or things will remain as they have been for these last nine years.

71. If the Peshwa would raise an army such as he could maintain without an effort, he would be able in the event of peace continuing to reduce the Jagheerdars to obedience without difficulty. Even with his present force he has greatly reduced some Jagheerdars, and entirely extirpated others. The Pratinidhi, the Jagirdars of Baramati and Belgaon, and Ganpat Rao Ganesh have been entirely deprived of their lands and those held by Madhoo Rao Rastiah.....diminished. By continuing his present system, the Peshwa may possibly reduce all the Jagirdars without any decided interference on our part, in which case he would deprive them of their lands, and all the bad consequences of the first of the plans contemplated by Lord Wellington would infallibly ensue.

72. It is also possible that the Jagheerdars may be allowed to retain their lands till the Peshwa's claims are considered as extinct, and till every mark of obedience which they now show, is entirely laid aside, both of which may take place at no very distant period, or the Jagheerdars may win their entire independence, after a struggle with the Peshwa. Supposing either of these events to take place, without the intervention of the British Government in favour of the Jagheerdars, there would be strong reason for apprehending that they would disturb the neighbouring countries, or form combinations with the enemies of the allies. There can certainly be no reason for expecting that they would behave better in those respects than they have done hitherto, and the power of the allies to restrain their turbulence would be much less than it ever has been.

73. The success either of the Peshwa or the Jagheerdars might be expected to be preceded by a struggle, in which the neighbouring possessions of the Company, the the Rajah of Mysore, and the Peshwa would have a chance of suffering materially.

74. How the Jagheerdars would conduct themselves if they remained in their present condition, and our interference were entirely withdrawn, it is difficult to conjecture, as the experiment has never fairly been tried, but the manner in which they have actually conducted themselves, is known and I think, it appears that they have behaved with greater or less moderation, according as we seemed to be more or less able, and disposed to interfere in their concerns, and consequently that the Jagheerdars, on their present footing require frequent interference on our part to prevent great disorders and always require it most when it is least in our power to afford it.

75. From these premises it appear to follow that it is desirable for the British Government to interfere for the purpose of making such an arrangement as it may approve and that it is advisable for the British Government to choose its own time for interfering, and to settle the Jagheerdars on such a footing as may prevent their distracting its attention at any future period.

76. It appears probable that this might be effected without any opposition from the Jagheerdars.

77. It is true, that a former negotiation, undertaken for this purpose, was unsuccessful, but there were circumstances, at the time, unfavourable to its success. Mr Strachey states the following causes of Jagheerdars did not think the terms advantageous (as they certainly are not), that owing to the weakness of the Peshwa, and the moderation of the British, they thought they had nothing to dread from either of those powers, that the Peshwa's Government counteracted, Mr Strachey, and excited in the minds of the Jagheerdars a strong distrust of His Highness's good faith. Besides these causes, the

distractions of the Peshwa's country, the unsettled state of his Government, the full employment of the British Troops, and the recent enmities between His Highness and the Jagheerdars, must be taken into the account. Yet even at that time, the Jagheerdars professed the greatest readiness to serve, and it was Mr. Strachey's opinion, and I believe Lord Wellington's that if the Peshwa would have forborne to molest people who were willing to serve him, if he would have agreed to pardon old offenders, and forego old pecuniary demands, he would at that time have effected a settlement of his Southern Dominions.

78. If the Peshwa would now adopt those principles, there can be little doubt that they would succeed, as most of the obstacles which prevented a settlement in 1804, are now removed.

79. The Jagheerdars will certainly be more reluctant to part with their usurpations than formerly, because they have been longer in undisturbed possession; but I do not think this will weigh against the disadvantage which results to the Jagheerdars from the power which the allies possess of bringing their whole force against them. At all events it is an obstacle which will increase by being left alone and if the Peshwa's claims are to be enforced at all, it will be best done before the Jagheerdars conceive that they have acquired a prescriptive right to refuse compliance with them.

80. I do not however suppose, that proposals founded on the principles above stated, would be resisted by any of the Jagirdars still less do I think there would be a general combination to oppose them.

81. Such moderate demands would present nothing to drive the Jagirdars to desperation, or even irritate them to any great pitch, and none but desperate men, or men under the influence of violent passion, would engage in so unequal a contest. Many of the Jagheerdars are very rich, and they have all large landed possessions, which they hold legally, and which they would be unwilling to risk for the chance of keeping their usurpations.

82. If any resisted, it could only be the most violent and turbulent among them, and the Jagheerdars have shown no such spirit of combination as would lead us to expect that they would all provoke the British power merely because one of their body had done so. Chintaman Rao certainly took part with the Prati Nidhi, and entirely for the purpose of preserving the power of the Jagheerdar but this was at a time when the allies were so fully employed, that they had not the means of chastizing insubordination among the Peshwa's subjects. When the Peshwa was again obliged to attack the Prati Nidhi, after the peace with Holkar, Chintaman Rao was easily persuaded by the Resident to leave the Prati Nidhi to his fate, and for the five years which were occupied in dispossessing that Chieftain, none of the Jagheerdars attempted to interfere in his favour. In course of the same period, some other Jagirdars have been dispossessed without creating any sensation among the

rest. In the disputes with Appa Sahib, there was no disposition to confederate among the Jagheerdars, although the points in dispute were such as equally affected the whole body

83. From these facts, I am inclined to believe that the Jagirdars are unlikely to confederate against the Peshwa, except in times when the allies are so much occupied by other wars as to be unable to act with vigor against such a combination. Supposing, however, that a confederacy could be formed, a view of the particular circumstances of each of the Jagheerdars will show that it is not likely to be extensive.

84. Gokhla and Appa Desai are on bad terms with the other Jagirdars, and are at present in obedience to the Peshwa, and attached to the British Government. As they both maintain the whole of their Serinjaumee troops and have served when required on all occasions but one, they would not be affected by the demand for their service. They would be required to give up their usurpations which are recently acquired, and bear no proportion to the lands, regularly assigned to them, besides which Gokhla would lose, by rebellion, the certain prospect of obtaining grants of additional lands, more than equal to those which he holds without authority, and Appa Desai would be left if he rebelled, to fight his own battle with the Rajahs of Kolhapore and Sawant War, if not with the Patwardhans and Gokhla. It is therefore very improbable that these Chiefs would join in a confederacy against the British.

85. The Desai of Kittor would only lose an annual income of 45,000 Rupees by this arrangement while he would gain all that part of his Serinjaumee lands which are now held by the Patwardhans he would not be called on for troops unless this Serinjaum were assigned to him, and if it were, he would be glad to furnish them, for though aware of that condition, he is anxious to receive a Serinjaum. There are several Jagheerdars besides those mentioned in this dispatch, but they are all on good terms with the Government, and none of them are of any consequence except Bapoo Sindhia, who derives some importance from his possessing the Fort of Dharwar. He is the Peshwa's Governor, but not under His Highness's authority. He is however unlikely to join in any confederacy against his master, particularly in a dispute in which he has no concern.

86. The principal losers would be the Patwardhans and among them Appa Sahib. He has still usurpations to restore, to the amount of 3,00,000 Rupees annual Revenue or thereabouts. Chintaman Rao is only called on for about 45,000 Rupees, and Trimbak Rao for 10,000 Rupees and they would acquire Serinjaumee lands to a considerable amount which have been seized by the Rajah of Kolhapore and the Desai of Kittoor. There is no claim for lands on Narain Rao of Merich, but the whole family

would be required to furnish their contingents, and would certainly loose a good deal of their present independence. Whether they would consider the enforcing of just and moderate demands as a sufficient cause for open rebellion it is not easy to say, but considering the force that would be opposed to them, anthe little hope they have of acquiring allies, it seems rather improbable. The utmost force they could assemble would not be sufficient to prevent the occupation of the principal places belonging to them, which I cannot suppose they would be willing to stake on the chance of remaining in their present state of insubordination.

87. The only Jagheerदार at all likely to join in a struggle against the allies, is Rastiah, and.....has given up the most valuable of his usurpations.....actually attends himself at Poona. I do not think that the Peshwa's demands would make so much difference in his condition as to tempt him to resist them by force. He would besides, immediately lose his lands in Khandesh which form a third of his Serinjaum.

88. The Rajah of Kolhapore might, perhaps join the Patwardhans, not so much for the purpose of resisting His Highness's present demands, as for that of recovering Chickoree and Manowlee, and other places which he claims, and which are held for the Peshwa by Appa Desai. His interests, however, are essentially different from those of the Jagheerदars, and it is probable that no hearty union would take place between them and the Rajah.

89. If the Patwardhans did rebel, and were supported by Rastiah and the Rajah of Kolhapore, they would still be unable to make any formidable opposition.

90. I have no information about the Rajah of Kolhapore's country but he cannot be very stronger as he has been conquered by Appa Desai.

91. The Patwardhans have at present only 900 Horse and 1,700 peons, Rastia must have less.

92. The present state of the southern countries keeps up a number of adventurers, who might be entertained by the Jagirdars. It is said that there are 10,000 or 15,000 Horse of this description. They are however unconnected with any particular Chief and would serve the Peshwa as readily as his enemies. They are described to be very bad troops.

93. The Peasantry of the countries beyond the Kishna are warlike, and have been known to defend their villages against very superior force; many of these villages were, however, easily taken in the Campaign against Dhoondia, and they would probably offer no opposition after the principal places were reduced.

94. The Jagheerdars alluded to, have several Forts, but none capable of offering much resistance to regular troops, except Merich on the fall of which the fate of the rest might be expected to depend. Koosigul is a strong fort, but small and ill-provided with ordinance, Jumbundee has the same disadvantages with Koosigul, and is not so strong a place, none of the others are of any note.

95. The capture of one or two forts would probably break up the confederacy, if it did not, the rest of the country would be occupied and in the meantime, the troops of the Rajah of Mysore, the Nizam and the Peshwa, would be employed in protecting their respective countries against any inroads that might be made into them. If the country was reduced, the Jagheerdars would not be more formidable than any other plunderers and. as the Pindaries, who have never the with impunity.

96. It is to be observed that the Peshwa's situation with respect to the Southern Jagheerdars is much improved since his means of acting against them were last discussed in 1804, he having obtained possession of the province of Savanore and the strong forts of Badaumi and Belgaum, which are equalled by none in the southern countries except Meritch and Dharwar.

97. But the difficulty of reducing the Jagheerdars becomes a question of inferior importance, if it appears to the Government that they have always shown a disposition to turbulence when the armies of the allies were engaged in any extensive war. In that case even supposing that they would all unite to oppose us, and that Gokhla Appa Desai, and the Desai of Kittoor were so much disaffected as to join them against the Peshwa to their own obvious detriment, and supposing that in consequence their reduction should become a matter of much difficulty, it would still remain to be considered whether this combination is not as likely to take place at some more inconvenient time, and whether it is not expedient to provide against such an event by enforcing the Peshwa's just claims when all advantages happen to be on the side of the allies.

98. If the Government should think it to interfere at all it will be proper to enquire how far its interference ought to be carried.

99. The first question will then be, whether it ought to against the Peshwa in the design which he evidently still harboured of dispossessing the Jagheerdars. There can be very little hesitation in deciding this in the negative. Besides many other arguments brought forward by Lord Wellington against this course of policy there is one which seems quite decisive. It is that the great defect of the Peshwa's Government is the little influence which his officers possess over the people under them and the little interest which they have in the prosperity of the country subject to their authority. Both these advantages are possessed by the Jagheerdars and that in a part of the country where they are more required than in any other. The destruction of so

many great Chiefs could not fail.....throw the country which they had possessed into great.....from which such officers as the Peshwa's would.....very unlikely to extricate it. A resolution to dispossess.....the Jagheerdars, would also be very sure to occasion a.....with those Chiefs, which on any other plan is unlikely to occur. Accordingly this plan has been decided to be impolitic by the highest authorities.....former occasions, as it probably will be on.....

100. It would therefore be necessary.....condition of our interference, that the.....give up this design, and allow.....to guarantee their.....Jagirdars as long as they should serve His Highness with fidelity. The Peshwa ought also to engage to satisfy such claims of the Jagirdars as the British Government should judge to be equitable.

101. There would then remain the following claims on His Highness's part to be adjusted:—

1st. That the Jagheerdars should restore the lands and Revenue which they hold without authority.

2nd. That they should refund the Revenue which they have gained by the usurpations.

3rd. That they should obey the Peshwa, and serve with the troops when commanded.

4th. That they should refund the money allowed to pay to Serinjami force during the year, when they did not serve.

5th. That they should pay certain fees to His Highness the Peshwa with arrears.

6th. That they should pay some fees to His Highness's ministers with arrears.

7th. That they should pay the arrears of the contributions levied in 1197.

8th. That they should employ the Durrukdars appointed by His Highness (Letter incomplete in the volume-portion missing).

Letter No. 25.—The letter refers to the discussions between the Resident and the Peshwa's Ministers regarding the territorial adjustments between the Peshwa and Appa Desai, the assistance which the Bhonsla had sought from the Peshwa to expel the Pindaris, and the investiture of the Rajah of Sawantwari, who had succeeded his father.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, the 3rd January 1813.

I this evening waited on the Minister to urge the immediate surrender of the Rajah of Kolhapore's territories which Appa Desai continues to retain, notwithstanding strong and frequent remonstrances on my part,

2. The Minister immediately promised to give strict orders on the subject to Appa Desai and to take severe notice of his disobedience if it were again repeated, at the same time he disclaimed all pretensions on the Peshwa's part to the country in question and to everything besides Chickoree and Manowlee.

3. He took this opportunity of enquiring whether he might now send officers to take possession of the lands which Appa Desai held without authority, a measure which he had before suspended at my request. I told him that the resumption of those lands might be considered hereafter, but that the restoration of those belonging to Kolhapore was an affair of primary importance in which the honour of His Highness's Government as well as that of the British Government was deeply involved.

4. The Minister then produced papers respecting the musters of the contingents belonging to the Patwardhans which were taken sometime ago, but concerning which there were several points to settle. By the Minister's account, the contingents are very deficient and I readily undertook to insist on their being completed.

5. Many other topics were afterwards mentioned of which the following are the principal. The Minister urged the march of the British troops against Soondoor, and at the same time objected to the demand of payment for the expense, saying it was a trifle and ought not to be mentioned. I admitted that it would probably be only a trifle and might be nothing, but that the principle was important and that it was desirable to fix the limits of the service demandable from the British troops with precision. After some further discussion in which the Minister held the same language as before, I said the troops should march but that the Minister must remember what I had announced to him. The Minister said that he should of course remember it, but that he could not mention it to the Peshwa. I shall, therefore, defer writing to Colonel Dowse till I receive more explicit acknowledgment of the principle in question.

6. The Minister then produced some letters from the Rajah of Berar and Shridhar Pandit to the Peshwa, in which the former professes himself the servant of this state, complains that the portion of the Peshwa's dominions which are in his charge are left unprotected against the devastations of the Pindaries and called on the Peshwa as his Sovereign to assist him. After reading the letters he asked my advice about the reply to be returned to them. I advised him to write a civil refusal pointing out that the Rajah had no claims on the Peshwa and could expect no assistance from him. The Bhow then said that it would not be becoming the relation between the states to show a want of interest in the Rajah's welfare and proposed writing some loose promises of assistance which it would not be necessary to perform. I remonstrated against this plan as calculated to mislead the Rajah and as implicating the faith of all the allied Governments, adding that if such a promise were made, it ought to be with Your Lordship's approbation.

On this, the Minister said it was no new thing and that the Rajah was an old servant of the state, on which all the usual discussions regarding the Peshwa's supremacy were renewed. At last it was agreed that the Peshwa should write to say that the allies would do their best to prevent the entrance of the Pindaries through their part of the Deccan and that the Rajah must endeavour to do the same.

7. The Peshwa's demands for the surrender of Ahmednagar was then brought forward and discussed for a considerable time, but after I had frequently acknowledged that the fort was the Peshwa's, the subject was dropped for the present.

8. The Minister then mentioned the disputes with the Gaikwar State, and expressed his anxiety to have them brought to a close on which I told him that the Gaikwar's Vakeel was as anxious as he could be for such a termination of this protracted discussion and that I had often urged him (the Minister) to come to an adjustment with him; that the Gaikwar Government was now sending a new Vakeel for the purpose of bringing the affair to a close and that I hoped the Minister would exert himself to that end. The Minister said he had been waiting all this time for the judgment of the British Government on the points under discussion, expressed some unwillingness to have the Vakeel changed and insisted on the expediency of the disputes being brought as soon as possible under Your Lordship's decision; he said that the Peshwa's Government knew nothing of the Gaikwar State but as an ally of ours and that we only could adjust their disputes. I replied that the British Government was quite ready to undertake the arbitration but that if the two Governments could settle the whole or any part of their disputes among themselves, it was by far the most desirable arrangement. The Minister assented to this and said he would begin tomorrow morning and endeavour to settle with the present Vakeel before the Peshwa set out for the Konkan, which His Highness is to do in course of a fortnight.

9. He afterwards brought forward some claims on His Highness the Nizam, one of which related to Sailoo Munta and the others to Amrapoor and another place, on the subject of which I shall address the Resident at Hyderabad.

10. He concluded by saying that the Rajah of Sawantwari was dead and that the Peshwa was about to grant an investiture to his heir. I took this opportunity of alluding to the intended treaty with the Sawantwari State. I said that I had before acquainted the Minister with the intention of the British Government of entering into a treaty with that State; that he was of course apprized of the engagements into which Captain Schuyler had entered; that they had not yet been ratified by Your Lordship and therefore I did not communicate them to this Court but that in the meantime I was sure they would not affect any of the rights which His Highness was still in the habit of exercising over Sawantwari and that if I were certain that the right of investiture was of this nature I would not object to it, provided it were

not likely to produce disputes or to lead to any aggression against the Sawantwari territory. The Minister assured me that it was an undoubted right and could have none of the consequences I alluded to, and he soon after offered to send me the papers which had past between this state and Sawantwari to enable me to judge of the connection. I agreed to this proposal and hope in consequence to be able to inform Your Lordship whether the Peshwa has any rights which are at all likely to clash with the intended guarantee. All the information I have yet received leads me to think that His Highness has such rights and that he would be greatly disgusted if they were interfered with.

11. I have the honour to acquaint Your Lordship that Appa Desai arrived at this place some days ago with a force reckoned at 2,500 Horse, 1,500 Foot and 14 Guns. Among the Gifts which he presented to the Peshwa at his visit, were five brass guns, he has been at the Residency after his arrival but I had no conversation on business with him.

Letter No. 26.—The letter intimates that the Peshwa was keen on forming a battalion of his own under the training and command of British officers and that he wanted Captain Ford to take up the work. The discussion that the Resident had with Sadashiv Mankeshwar regarding the exchange of territories between Appa Desai and the Rajah of Kolhapur is also referred to. The uncertain boundaries of Chickory had caused much trouble to the Resident.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, the 16th January 1813.

After a good deal of consultation between the Peshwa, the Minister, Captain Ford and myself, His Highness had decided on the establishment of his Battalions, the native part of which was originally proposed by Major General Close, and to which it is now proposed to make an addition of Six European officers of infantry and one of Artillery, 10 Sergeants and 4 Gunners.

2. The Peshwa himself had selected Captain Ford for the command and I thought it expedient to leave the choice of the other officers to Captain Ford, subject to the approbation of the British authorities. Captain Ford accordingly pitched on Captain J. Hicks of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Regiment, Bombay Native Infantry and Lieutenant Betts of the same Corps to command Battalions and those officers have recommended Lieut. Evan Davis of the 1st Battalion, 7th Regiment, and Lieut. Frederick Hicks of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Regiment, for their adjutants. Lieutenant Thew is proposed to instruct the Artillery and one other officer remains for Captain Ford to fix on.

3. The equipments of the Corps and the pay of the officers and men have been settled on the most liberal footing and I have no doubt that these Corps will be superior in efficiency to any that have yet been raised in any native service.

4. In course of Captain Ford's intercourse with the Peshwa and the Minister, a considerable degree of anxiety was manifested to secure his fidelity. He was repeatedly told that the Peshwa would do nothing except in concert with the British Government, but that he would be expected to obey His Highness and above all that he must abstain from intrigues and recognize no authority in the Mahratta state but that of His Highness. Throughout the whole arrangement the Peshwa showed the strongest interest in its progress, he drew up minute calculations of the expense in which he included many little articles which no native could have been expected to have known and in all the establishment he proposed, he showed equal judgment and liberality.

5. When the whole arrangement was determined on, I waited on His Highness accompanied by Captain Ford and after complimenting His Highness on your Lordship's part, I declared my entire satisfaction with the plan which His Highness had proposed and remarked that if it were followed up in the same spirit it would not be His Highness's fault if his Battalions were not the best that had ever served an Indian prince. I then said that Captain Ford was now ready to receive his investiture as His Highness had proposed, and that your Lordship had very disposition to assist him with British officers but that it would be necessary to receive your Lordship's sanction before they could be considered as finally allotted to the duty of disciplining His Highness's Brigade. The Peshwa showed some disappointment at this and said that it would be best to let the whole plan be over till his return from Copergaon (in the beginning of the rainy season) when every part of the proposed establishment might be entered on at once. I replied that the time of commencing on the plan depended upon His Highness's pleasure; that he must be well aware that I could enter on no durable arrangement without your Lordship's orders and that I thought it necessary to apprise him that whatever might now be done was under a reservation till your final orders should be received, but that I was so certain of your Lordship's readiness to attend to His Highness's wishes, that I should not hesitate to take any steps that might be necessary for their immediate gratification.

6. His Highness then expressed himself highly satisfied and I went on to remind him that the affairs even in the event of your approbation, would only be but to him for a time and would be recalled as soon as the Battalions were completed and other officers procured to replace them. The Peshwa said that he had no doubt the British Government would attend to his interests in its orders respecting the officers and that if they were recalled he would entertain such others in their room as should be recommended to him by Captain Ford, in whom he said he had entire confidence. I mentioned in answer that Captain Ford as well as the other

officers would be liable to be recalled but adverting to His Highness's temper and the probability of his being disgusted by any check in his designs, I added that I should be happy to submit any wish His Highness might have with regard to that officer, to your Lordship's consideration. His Highness answered that he must earnestly request that Captain Ford might be allowed to remain with his Battalions, that he be content with any other officer of his but that he must have some one on whom he could depend, he added what he frequently had said before, that the success of his undertaking must depend entirely on the assistance he received from the British Government. I said I would report his wishes to your Lordship

7 I next observed that the troops which His Highness was going to raise would be his own and subject to no control, but His Highness's, that I should however take the liberty of speaking at all times both to His Highness and to Captain Ford on any subject connected with the improvement of the Corps and that I should use that privilege immediately but recommending one or two points to His Highness's attention. The first was that he should pay particular attention to the Musters and to the accounts of the Corps. I said such attention was invariably paid in our service and was one cause of the great efficiency of our Army, that His Highness's having a thorough insight into the purposes to which his funds were applied would be particularly pleasing to Captain Ford, and would be but justice to that officer whose character would gain by every measure that was taken to bring his conduct in this respect to light. I then repeated to His Highness what I had often before said, that the existence of the Battalions depended on their being regularly paid, that I would strongly dissuade His Highness from entrusting this important branch of his expenditure to any of the Ministers and that to save him the trouble of continually arranging for the payment himself, I would advise him to allot some branch of revenue to this purpose and to prohibit its being otherwise applied. His Highness after thanking me for my advice declared that he would adopt it implicitly. He said in particular that he would pledge himself to the regular payment of the troops every month, that he had allotted a branch of revenue exclusively to that purpose, and that he would always keep a sum of money in advance in Captain Ford's hands.

8 This point was certainly the most important in the whole affair, but the fear of exciting the Peshwa's jealousy by any attempt to render the pay of the Battalions more independent on his will, induced me to abstain from urging it any further. What has been done will, I hope, secure the regular payment of the Battalions for the present and it is to be hoped that His Highness will hereafter be persuaded without the intervention of the British Government, to adopt a plan which will in reality contribute exclusively to his own advantage.

9. His Highness had originally fixed the pay of his Sepoys on the peace and war establishment at the same sum of 8 Rupees 8 annas which although no superior on the whole to the allowances

of our Army, I thought likely to appear more attractive to the Natives than our regular pay of 7 Rupees 8 annas with the addition of Bhatta when on service. It seemed likely therefore to encourage discontent and desertion among our Corps when relieved from the Deccan and to interfere with our recruiting service, at the same time that it would render His Highness's troops indisposed to active service where their trouble and expense would be increased while their pay remained the same. On this last ground I recommended to the Peshwa to reduce his peace allowances to 7 Rupees and to allow a fund to be formed with the balance of the proposed pay, from which Bhatta might be allowed in time of field service and some other expenses met, without the necessity of stoppages; but His Highness replied that those were points on which he ought to be guided by the opinion of Captain Ford alone. Captain Ford had readily agreed to recommend the alteration to the Peshwa and I hope it will be easily accomplished. I next cautioned the Peshwa that he was to expect no service from his infantry for 18 months for which he was already prepared; after which Captain Ford received his dress of honour and was desired by the Peshwa to apply to him directly whenever he had anything to communicate.

10. Long previous to this meeting I had given up all hopes of prevailing on Appa Desai to surrender the places belonging to Kolhapore which ought by the treaty to be immediately evacuated. I therefore announced to him that I should consider the surrender as a question between the Peshwa's Government and the Company's, that I should leave off all communication with him on the subject, and that along with it I should relinquish all interference in the adjustment of his affairs beyond what might become necessary under the terms of our guarantee. I waited for some time to see the effect of this declaration but as it produced nothing but professions, I proceeded to remonstrate with the Minister who also made fair promises but did nothing towards the execution of the treaty. I therefore took this occasion of addressing the Peshwa to whom I showed in a strong light the hardship which the Rajah of Kolhapore suffered and the dishonour to which His Highness's Government was exposed by Appa Desai's proceedings. The Peshwa readily admitted the truth of what I said, he promised to take effectual measures to enforce the execution of the treaty and declared that although he had intended to set out in two days on his annual tour, he would positively not leave Poona till this affair was adjusted. He sent next morning for Appa Desai and spoke to him earnestly on the subject, but Appa Desai at a subsequent interview with Sadashiv Mankeshwar prevailed on that Minister to send me a message stating that Appa Desai stipulated for certain terms as the price of his obeying the Peshwa's orders, and that among these terms was a demand for certain forts belonging to Kolhapore over and above the districts which had been ceded by treaty, which the Minister proposed that I should arrange with the Rajah. This proposal was of course instantly rejected. I expressed my extreme surprise that it should have been made to me and said I was sure

the Peshwa would be incensed if he knew how lightly the Minister treated his faith with foreign states and his authority over his own subjects. On this the Minister withdrew his application which he said he had been induced to make contrary to his own judgment, by the importunity of Appa Desai. He yesterday promised that orders of surrender should immediately be sent to me, to be delivered to the Rajah and I am now in expectation of receiving them. In the meantime I have announced to the Minister that the reasons which led me to request him to postpone the resumption of the lands held without authority by Appa Desai, had ceased to operate, and that he might proceed to resume those lands when he thought proper.

11. The Rajah of Kolhapur was at first very urgent for the recovery of the country which was to be restored at the peace and appeared to doubt whether any restoration was actually intended, but as his Vakeels became acquainted with the real state of the affairs, the Rajah became convinced of the sincerity of the British Government and aware of the causes which obstructed the fulfilment of its designs; from that time his Vakeels have ceased to urge the immediate restitution of the lands and the Rajah appears to have been satisfied that they would be restored. Till lately, when report was set about by some of the factions at Kolhapore that the English had failed in their endeavours to prevail on the Peshwa to fulfil the treaty and were about to restore Malwaun as the only compensation that could be made to the Raja; on this the Rajah wrote to his Vakeels that he did not wish for Malwaun, and that his sole dependence was on the protection of the British Government. I used all means to satisfy the Rajah of the falsehood of this report and since then I have heard nothing more of his anxiety.

12. The settlement of the limits of Chikoree advances very slowly though frequent meetings have taken place for that purpose. The difficulty which I had the honour to state as arising from the confusion between the limits of Hookairee and Chikoree, appeared at first to be removed by the production of several treaties in which Chikoree was ceded and restored by the two states. It then seemed very easy to ascertain how much territory was actually made over when Chikoree was ceded by treaty, but it soon became evident that the irregularity of the Marattas and their contempt of their engagements, rendered all hopes of any discovery by these measures of no avail. It is a singular fact that of several treaties which were shown to me in which Chikory was ceded by the Peshwa to the Rajah or by the Rajah to the Peshwa not one was followed by the actual surrender of the district. The occupation and relinquishment of the districts generally depended on the force of the parties and not on their engagements, so that the history of the transfers of the rights to them by treaty is entirely unconnected with that of their actual occupation.

13. The next plan that suggested itself was to examine the records of both Governments and to endeavour to ascertain from them what were formerly considered as the limits of Chikory but

here a fresh difficulty arose from the disagreement between the accounts of the two Governments; the Peshwa's records assigning 372 villages to chikory while the Rajah's only assign 42; neither is there any ground for considering the division made under one Government as more authentic than the other, for it is quite uncertain which Government first occupied the district and it seems to have been nearly an equal time in possession of each of them. It next occurred to me that the true limits of the district might be ascertained by enquiring of the Zamindars in the countries claimed by the Peshwa, whether their lands were really situated in the district of Chickory but it was objected by the Kolhapore Vakeels with great appearance of justice, that as the country was now in the occupation of Appa Desai it was highly improbable that the Zamindars would venture to reveal the truth, if it happened to be unfavourable to the interests of that Chief. I am not however without hopes that some lights I have lately received on the subject, may lead to enquiries which will bring out the real state of the affair.

14. In consequence of the impatience manifested by the Peshwa at the interview which I have had the honour to report and on a consideration of the expediency of putting the formation of His Highness's Battalions in train before he quits Poona for the season, I have ventured to anticipate your Lordship's arrangements for procuring leave of absence for the officers and men to be employed with His Highness's Brigade and have suggested to the Right Hon'ble the Governor of Bombay the expediency of granting temporary leave to those immediately required, which may be allowed to expire if your Lordship does not think it expedient to take measures for renewing it. The officers are also apprized that their remaining even for the present in the Peshwa's employment is still subject to your Lordship's final orders.

Letter No. 27.—The long letter reports the details of the transactions between the Peshwa and the Patwardhans on the eve and after the departure of the Peshwa for the Konkan. The political relations subsisting between Appa Desai, the British Government, the Raja of Kolhapur and the Rani of Sawantwari are also described with a historical retrospect. This survey reveals interesting details about the career of Appa Desai. Elphinstone further suggests the terms for a treaty between Sawantwari and Kolhapur. The enclosures are also important.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, the 18th March 1813.

Soon after I had last the honour of addressing your Lordship directly His Highness the Peshwa set out for the Konkan from whence he proceeded to Kopergaon. Sadashiv Mankishwar set off

for his village of Taamboornee about the same time, the greater part of the other Ministers either accompanied the Peshwa or the Bhow, or were allowed to go to different parts of the country on their own affairs. The contingent of the Jagirdars marched to the frontier and they themselves repaired to positions which were pointed out to them for reasons which will hereafter be explained. The adjustment of many little points which remained to be settled with the Jagirdars was thus suspended and the investigation of the limits of Chikory and Manowlee entirely interrupted.

2. When the march of the Jagirdars was settled a considerable degree of embarrassment was created about the place where they were themselves to reside. Their own wish was either to be allowed to go to their Jagirs or to accompany their troops to the field. They were soon persuaded to drop the first of these plans and the second appeared to me quite unobjectionable. The Peshwa at first agreed to its being adopted, if I was convinced there was no danger of their intriguing with Sindhia and Holkar. I soon satisfied His Highness on that head but he still said he would prefer their staying at Poona. After a good deal of arrangement, it was settled that they should remain at Poona, but when the Peshwa was about to set out on his journey, the Minister sent to Appa Sahib Patwardhan to say that, after the attempts his father (Parasaram Bhow) had made to place Chimnajee Appa on the musnud, his remaining at the same city with that prince during the Peshwa's absence could not but be alarming to His Highness and would give rise to many reports unfavourable to the Patwardhan family. He therefore recommended his passing the period of the Peshwa's absence at Pandharpur. When this was communicated to me I complained of the Minister's interfering in the arrangements with the Jagirdars without previous concert with me. I pointed out the inconvenience of the contradictory instructions which those Chiefs received from him and me, and I could not but exclaim against the extraordinary impolicy of pointing out Chimnajee Appa to the Jagirdars as a rival of the Peshwa's and of giving rise to notions which had never till now occurred either to the Prince himself or to any of the Peshwa's subjects. However as the Bhow had desired the Patwardhans to repair to Pandharpur I said I should avoid all appearance of counteraction by seconding his request. I accordingly settled with the Patwardhans that they were to send their brothers to the field and go themselves to Pandharpur, but they had scarcely reached that place when the real motive of all these intrigues and false alarms became apparent. The Minister wrote to me complaining bitterly of the Patwardhans remaining at Pandharpur and not accompanying him to Taamboornee, from which it was evident that his real object was to procure for himself a train of Chiefs of birth and high rank in the state, and to indulge his affectation of imitating Nana Farnavees. The difference was compromised in the end and I only mention it to show the trifling causes which are allowed to create embarrassment in the most serious affairs of this Government.

3. The Musters of Rastia's Contingent still remained to be settled and as I had a good opportunity of knowing the distressed circumstances of that Sirdar in course of a partial settlement of his affairs which I undertook at his request I prevailed on the Peshwa with great difficulty to be satisfied with 2000 men from him instead of 3,300 the number which His Highness claimed. This number was accordingly mustered a few days ago and no complaints have yet been made by the Government but judging from the numerous and tedious altercations which took place at the musters of the Patwardhans I presume there will still be some difficulty in settling that of Rastia's troops, in the meantime that body is to march as soon as possible to join the contingent of the other Jagirdars on the Northern frontier.

4. I shall now proceed to report the progress of the adjustment of the Rajah of Kolhapore's affairs. I before acquainted your Lordship that I had failed in prevailing on Appa Desai to give up the districts which were admitted to belong to the Rajah of Kolhapore, to desist from extorting money from the disputed districts or even to refrain from plundering those in His Highness's possession. In consequence I transferred my applications on these subjects to the Government and received frequent assurances from it of its readiness to fulfil the Treaty, but the Minister betrayed considerable irresolution in enforcing the observance of it on the part of Appa Desai nor was it till the day fixed for his departure that any advantage was derived from my constant applications and remonstrances. At length the Minister sent me a certain number of orders of surrender under Appa Desai's seal, but as the small number of orders and the ambiguous style of some of them were unsatisfactory to the Rajah's Vakeels, I made a new application to the Minister, whom I begged to defer his departure and in consequence a meeting took place at which the Rajah's Vakeels and those of Appa Desai were brought together in my presence and that of some of the Peshwa's ministers. A summary enquiry was then made into the Rajah's claims; those which appeared doubtful were set aside for future investigation and those which were clear were settled by the Ministers engaging to give orders of surrender for the places to which they related. Appa Desai's Vakeels were as might be expected very unreasonable but the Peshwa's Ministers were more moderate and it was at length settled with their concurrence that orders of surrender should immediately be given for the places held by the Peshwa's troops in 17 Turrufs or districts, and that the case of three other places should be communicated to the Minister together with my opinion that they ought to be surrendered. Next day the orders for the surrender of the 17 Turrufs were brought to me and the Minister announced his acquiescence in my opinion regarding the other three, for which he promised to send orders of surrender under Appa Desai's seal within a day or two. The Minister then marched accompanied by Appa Desai and his contingent and I sent a Native Agent with him to receive the promised orders and also to procure similar orders for some places

belonging to Rastia and the Patwardhans which have been usurped by Appa Desai. Appa Desai contrived to defer the delivery of those orders till he reached Taimboornee when he procured the Minister's leave to return to Neepaunee to celebrate his marriage.

5. I had intelligence of the Minister's intention of allowing him to depart in time to write to him and request that Appa Desai might on no account be permitted to return to his Jagir till all the points under discussion were adjusted. The Minister was nevertheless prevailed on by certain considerations to sanction his return. As soon as I heard of his departure, I sent a message to the Minister remonstrating with him for his neglect of the Peshwa's promise, that the question of permitting the Jagirdars to return to their lands should always be settled in consultation between His Highness the Peshwa and the British Government, pointing out the peculiar necessity there was for attending to that promise in the present case and at the present time, and declaring my opinion that many inconveniences would arise from the particular instance in which that promise had been infringed.

6. On the receipt of this message the Minister redoubled his exertions to procure the orders of surrender and pressed Appa Desai with much earnestness to return to Taimboornee. His efforts have as yet been wholly unavailing and the following circumstances do not lead me to suppose that his authority will be much more respected in future.

7. The orders of surrender which Appa Desai had given under his own seal were delivered to the Rajah of Kolhapore, who sent officers to take possession of the villages. At the Rajah's request a hircarra of mine accompanied those officers and the following account is made out from his letters and from the statements of the Rajah's Vakeels. The Rajah's officers first went to the town and fort of Akkewaut, one of the most considerable, which was to be made over to the Rajah; they were there informed that the orders they brought could not be complied with unless further instructions were received from Neepaunee. To that place therefore they went and were told by Appa Desai's Chief Agents, that the orders would not be carried into execution unless the Rajah previously surrendered either the fort of Sawmaunghar or that of Buddergarh to Appa Desai. It is to be observed that the Peshwa's right to these places had already been discussed and had been candidly acknowledged by His Highness's own Ministers to be a proper subject for investigation and not one which ought at all to interfere with the restitution of the country to which the Peshwa had preferred no claim.

8. The Hircarra's report also confirmed the accounts I had often received from the Rajah's Vakeels of the extortions committed by Appa Desai on all the districts which are likely to be restored to the Rajah and of the outrages practised by him within the territories already in the Rajah's possession. It also stated

that various messengers from the Minister were at Neepaunee urging the immediate return of Appa Desai to Taimboornee but that Appa Desai did not seem disposed to pay much attention to them. The same statement is contained in a letter written by my native agent with the Bhow by that Minister's desire, the letter represents the pains the Bhow has taken to prevail on Appa Desai to return, mentions their ill success and afterwards gives the substance of a very strong letter which the Minister has addressed to Appa Desai insisting on his compliance with the former orders. The part of my Agent's letter which was written by the Minister's directions concludes with declaring that if Appa Desai still continues to disobey the orders he has received, his evil destiny must be allowed to take its course.

9. In consequence of these proceedings I have written to His Highness the Peshwa to request that he will issue orders in his own name to Appa Desai, and that he will exert himself to fulfil the Treaty with Kolhapore. I have also written to the same effect in more detail to the Minister. I have the honour to enclose translations of those letters.

10. I understand Appa Desai's real situation and designs. At this moment it is necessary to take a light view of his rise and of the circumstances which brought him into his present state. Appa Desai inherited from his ancestors a little country consisting of 8 or 10 villages which had been granted to them by the kings of Bijapur. In his infancy he was under the protection of the Rajah of Kolhapore and he together with Serjee Rao Ghatgey, was at one time given as a hostage to the Bombay Government for the performance of some engagements entered into by the Rajah. Appa Desai was for a considerable time in the Rajah's service but when the influence of Parasram Bhow began to be great in the countries near Kolhapore he went over to his service and I believe remained in it till Serjee Rao Ghatgey came into power when he entered Sindhia's service and attached himself particularly to Ghatgey. He received a large share of that adventurer's usurpations in the Southern countries and being a man of talents and a good soldier soon became a person of some importance in that neighbourhood. When Lord Wellington entered the Maratta country in 1803, Appa Desai accompanied the Army to Poona together with the other Southern Chiefs, but he was distinguished from the rest by his continuing in the Army during the whole of the campaign against Sindhia and the Rajah of Berar. During that period he received a large monthly allowance, and at the end of the war he obtained through the influence of the British Government the office of Sirlushkar and a very considerable Jagir in addition to what he had before. He afterwards received a grant of Chikory which he wrested from the Rajah of Kolhapore. In his long wars with that prince he was often counteracted by the intrigues of different Ministers and Chiefs of the Peshwa and was chiefly supported by the influence of the British Resident; in consequence of which he was liberal in his professions of obedience and attachment to the

British Government and on one occasion at least, he actually marched with his contingent to the Northward to co-operate with the British Army. In the mean time he acquired great power and reputation in his own neighbourhood, formed a strong party at the Durbar of Kolhapore, compelled the Rajah to give him his daughter in marriage, and seems to have formed the design of acquiring the whole of that principality. He seems to have held out to the Peshwa the prospect of being made Peshwa to the Rajah with the same powers which he exercises in the name of the Rajah of Satarah but if my own intelligence and the positive assertions of all the Kolhapur Vakeels be correct, his real design was to secure that authority for himself under the title of Dewan to the Rajah. The period during which the British Government declined all interference with Kolhapore affairs, and only interposed to check the intrigues of Chiefs at this Court against a Sirdar of their own Government, was favourable to Appa Desai's designs, but just as he was about to reap the fruit of his wars and intrigues, his whole scheme was disconcerted by the decided interposition of the British Power. His feelings on this disappointment seem to afford a sufficient explanation of the irritation so apparent in his answer to my first letter from Pandharpore for which, as I was not then acquainted with the extent of his designs, I found so much difficulty in accounting. Nevertheless as soon as the first ebullition of his anger was over, he resumed his usual professions of devotion to the British Government and of ready obedience to the commands of his own Government. I at first had much confidence in these professions but as that does not appear to have been well founded, it is necessary to take another view of Appa Desai and to attempt to discover what his conduct will be from his known designs and his means of carrying them into effect.

11. The enclosed letter shows that Appa Desai has not laid aside his original design of getting the chief authority in Kolhapur into his own hands. Much reliance may I think be placed on that letter which gives a good idea of the state of the Government of Kolhapore and of the Rajah's intentions. The Rajah's speeches to Kishan Rao must however be distinguished from the rest of the letter as those were compliments in the usual native style which the Rajah addressed to my Agent for the purpose of being reported to me. Appa Desai's means of accomplishing this favourite object are now greatly diminished and unless he is able to gain the Raja to his side they have little chance of success. Accordingly it is to this object that his attention appears at present to be directed. His resistance to the British Government is probably in a great measure prompted by his wish to show the Rajah that our friendship will be of very little use to him and that it is Appa Desai alone on whom the accomplishment of his wishes depends. He derives great advantage in this scheme from his having a strong party among the Rajah's ministers and from his being attended by almost all the Rajah's Serinjamy chiefs whose lands having been occupied by Appa Desai they have been forced to join him and are now of

the greatest use to him both by the intrigues which they carry on at Kolhapore and by the disturbances which they excite in the Rajah's country. He seems also to have employed the Rani of Sawantwari to harrass the Rajah and to show him the miseries to which he will be exposed if he continues to rest his hopes on the aid of our Government. I do not believe he can expect of the Peshwa's Government to countenance his scheme in all its extent. He has certainly found means to secure the Minister's support to a certain degree but I imagine the latter will not venture to engage in any plan for frustrating our designs or for breaking the Treaty with Kolhapore, indeed although it is evident he has had his reasons for wishing to oblige Appa Desai, I believe he is now alarmed at the probable consequences of the liberties which he was induced to allow that Chief to take. Before Appa Desai left him he sent a private message to me to beg I would write him such a letter as might give him a pretence for pressing Appa Desai's surrender of the Rajah's districts, and he now seems equally earnest in his endeavours to recall Appa Desai and in his attempts to exculpate himself from all share in his proceedings. The Peshwa I believe has no share whatever in Appa Desai's present operations. For all these reasons I do not think Appa Desai will endeavour to hold out in his present refusal to comply with the Peshwa's orders and his own promises. The eagerness with which he is plundering the countries which are to be surrendered, confirm me in the opinion that he will ultimately give them up. But when the limits of Chickory and Manowlee came to be settled I think it extremely probable that he will offer great opposition to any award by which he may be deprived of part of the lands in his possession. The Peshwa's interests and his will then be the same, and I have no doubt great difficulties will be thrown in the way of an adjustment. It is probable also that Appa Desai will continue to harrass and molest the Rajah as long as he has the power and as long as he thinks he can do so with safety.

12. To avoid the first of these inconveniences I shall take great pains to show the Peshwa the difference between his interests and those of Appa Desai and to convince him of the justice of any decision which may be passed respecting Chickoree and Manowlee as well as of the little importance of the disputed points to His Highness. The second inconvenience I hope will be obviated in some measure by the example of Sawantwari and by serious language on the part of the British Government. It may however render it necessary to keep Lieutenant Colonel Dowse in the field longer than was originally intended, a measure rendered otherwise desirable by the recall of the auxiliary force from Goa during the present unsettled state of Kolhapore and Sawantwari, and one, which will contribute greatly to the permanence of the present adjustment of the affairs of the Jagirdars.

13. I beg leave before dismissing this subject to draw your Lordship's attention to the fact that the present difficulties, with respect to Appa Desai, have not been created but disclosed by the settlement of the Southern countries; had things remained in their

former train the British Government would have continued to be instrumental in reducing Kolhapore under Appa Desai's authority, and that Chief would have opposed us with much greater effect than he now can on the first occasion where our interests were at variance with his, if indeed the very circumstances of a Sirdar of the Peshwa's acquiring the control of another state, had not at once compelled us to take such measures as must have produced a rupture.

14. The correspondence which I shall do myself the honour to forward will make your Lordship acquainted with all the transactions that have taken place relating to the state of Warree. This state has long been connected with Appa Desai. It was in co-operation with Warree that he made his first attack on Kolhapur and he could scarcely find a better instrument for molesting the Rajah without exposing himself to danger. It seems therefore probable that the unexpected attack made by that State on the Raja was in a great measure excited by Appa Desai's intrigues but whether the attack originated directly from Appa Desai or not, it seemed to me material to give an early proof of the determination of the British Government to resist all attempts to injure the Rajah. The circumstances of the attack appeared particularly to require such a measure. The state of Warree might have good claims to the fort which it attacked, but that fort had been for several years in the Rajah's possession and during that period he was at peace with the state of Warree. On the other hand the Raja had much more extensive claims on the state of Warree which had also been allowed to lie dormant for several years. In such circumstances if either party commenced a war on the other without previously renewing its claims or demanding satisfaction, it must surely be considered as the aggressor and its attack must be repelled by force. The state of Warree did actually commence a war in the manner above described, but instead of immediately resorting to force, I suggested to the envoy at Goa to open a negotiation with the Rani of Sawantwari, to apprise her that we were bound to defend the Rajah of Kolhapore and to offer her a fair investigation of her claims if she would abstain from violence. It is true I also suggested the expediency of impressing on the Rani the danger of her pressing her claims which would revive those of the Rajah of Kolhapore; but the Rani in her answer took no notice of this dissuasion but merely said, she had received and understood Captain Schuyler's offer of an investigation, but was determined to take Burrutghur to prevent the Company's districts being disturbed by the neighbourhood of the confusion incident to a divided district. On the receipt of this letter, Captain Schuyler in compliance with my suggestions called on Lieutenant Colonel Dowse to enter Sawantwari and again apprized the Rani of the consequences of her conduct.

15. These transactions having imposed on us the necessity of recognizing a particular individual as the head of the Warree State and having at the same time completely unsettled the relations

between us and that principality, it appeared necessary to enter on a new treaty and an opportunity was thereby afforded of introducing the modifications of that formerly concluded, which are required by your Lordship's instructions to Captain Schuyler and the Right Hon'ble the Governor of Bombay. Under this impression, I addressed a letter to the Government of Bombay through their Chief Secretary submitting certain terms which I proposed to offer to the state of Warree and requested to be honoured with their directions in respect to the points which related to their Residency. The Government replied by enclosing a copy of a letter to the Resident at Malwaun directing him to enquire into the subjects in question, to communicate them to me and to attend to any instructions he might receive from me. After the receipt of this communication I was anxious to have waited till I should have an opportunity of referring to the Right Hon'ble the Governor of Bombay; after the receipt of the report of the Resident at Malwaun but the advance of Lieutenant Colonel Dowse into Sawantwari rendering a speedy decision absolutely necessary, and Captain Schuyler continuing to express much solicitude respecting the terms which I was about to recommend to him, I found myself obliged to furnish him with my own sentiments on the subject referring him to the Resident at Malwaun for information on the points connected with the Presidency of Bombay.

The arrangement which I suggested to Captain Schuyler comprized the following terms:—

The restoration of Burrutghur.

The establishment of some provision for the settlement of future disputes between the states of Warree and Kolhapore.

The cession of Rairee and of the Waree Share of Massoorah.

The renunciation of all right on the part of Warree to the teak forest.

The confirmation of all parts of the former Treaty not at variance with the present.

The cession on the part of the British Government of its share of the districts which it holds in participation with Warree and of the town of Vingorla with the exception of the fort and the land between it and the sea and also of ground for a guard house.

The cessions are conditionally suggested and are recommended to be avoided in case the report of the Resident at Malwaun should show them to be objectionable. The fort is retained as a place of retreat for the troops, which might become necessary, as the removal of the force from Goa would render the arrival of assistance in case of a disturbance more remote than it was when Lieutenant Col. Smith made his report. The abandonment of our pecuniary claims and the extension of our protection and guarantee to the Rani with a Salvo for the Peshwa's right of supermacy. Most of these articles are founded on your Lordship's instructions and require no comment but there are one or two on which I am anxious to offer more full explanations.

16. The principal of these are the omission of the demand for the cession of Newtee and the recommendation to Captain Schuyler to give up the Company's pecuniary claims. I have no doubt your Lordship would at any time approve of the utmost moderation in our demands which might be consistent with the attainment of your designs and at present moderation is rendered more necessary by events which have taken place since your Lordship's instructions were issued. The interposition of the British Government in favour of the Rajah of Kolhapore, however just, cannot but be offensive to the Government of Warree and the removal of the auxiliary force from Goa by lessening our means of coercing that Government makes it more desirable than ever to offer such terms as will secure its cordial acquiescence in the arrangement which is to be maintained henceforward. It was therefore desirable to lessen our demands and increase the advantages offered to the State of Warree as much as was consistent with the interests of the British Government and it will perhaps appear that those interests are exposed to no real detriment by the sacrifices alluded to. Lieutenant Colonel Smith's opinion of the fort of Newtee is already before the Government and from all the information I have been able to collect it does not appear to be of the least use to a power which is in possession of Malwaun. The cession therefore while it would increase the difficulty of settling with the Warree State would only burden us with an establishment without increasing our means of checking Piracy. Our pecuniary demands on Kolhapore appear from the circumstances of that state to be merely nominal and although there might be an advantage in retaining them for the purpose of furnishing an equivalent for any sacrifice we might hereafter require from Warree, yet the benefit of such a possession cannot in the present state of affairs be put in competition with that of a sincere and cheerful accession on the part of the Warree State to our demands.

17. The clause which I have advised to be annexed to the guarantee as a Salvo for the Peshwa's right is liable to objection in as much as it appears to countenance claims which we have every reason to think unfounded, but it is of so much importance to secure the Peshwa's cordial co-operation in the adjustment to be effected of the Rajah of Kolhapore's affairs that it is worthwhile to submit to some inconvenience rather than give him offence and the inconvenience in this case is not great, since the proposed clause only binds us to attend to the Peshwa's just claims which we would not in any circumstances have attempted to set aside. For these reasons I trust the terms I have alluded to will not be disapproved by your Lordship. I trust these terms will soon be acceded to and that Lieutenant Colonel Dowse will speedily be enabled to reascend the Ghats.

18. I have now only to mention the repeated applications I have received from the Kolhapore Vakeels for gifts or loans of money to relieve the pecuniary embarrassments to which their Government and even their own mission is at present subject.

I have constantly rejected these applications in civil terms but it is not impossible that they may be made subservient to the acquisition of the Raja's rights to the remaining share of Massoorah in case he should appear to possess any rights worth acquiring.

19. I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that in consequence of the desire expressed by the Government of Bombay to be enabled with the least possible delay to strengthen the force employed in the defence of Guzerat, I have authorized the march of the 1st Battalion 8th Regiment Bombay Native Infantry from Scroor without waiting the arrival of the Corps which is to relieve it. The 1st Battalion 8th Regiment accordingly marched on the beginning of this month and the other Battalion may now be daily expected to arrive.

Substance of a letter addressed by Mr. Elphinstone to His Highness the Peshwa, dated the 15th March 1813.

Since your Highness left Poona, I have had the satisfaction of hearing from time to time of your progress and of your safe arrival at Copergaon which gave me the greatest pleasure. When your Highness set out you left certain affairs of your Government in train for immediate adjustment and as you probably expect to find them settled when you return, I think it my duty to make you acquainted with the present state of their progress towards a final arrangement. Your Highness had pleased to issue orders for the march of the troops, belonging to the Jagirdars, towards the frontier. Those troops marched accordingly and the Sirdars proceeded to a separate destination agreeably to your Highness's commands.

Rastia's troops remained to be mustered and their muster has since taken place, agreeably to the arrangement which your Highness was pleased to give your consent, and they are now about to proceed to the frontier.

When your Highness was about to leave Poona you were pleased to give positive orders that all the places taken from the Rajah of Kolhapore, not claimed for your Highness, should be immediately given up to the Rajah. Accordingly the Minister, before his departure, directed an enquiry to be made into the number of places so circumstanced and after a full investigation, at which the Sirlushkar's Vakeels assisted, it was settled that orders of surrender for 20 places should be given without delay, 17 were accordingly given on the spot under the seal of the Sirlushkar and the rest, the minister promised to send to me while on his march to Taimboornee. The orders of surrender given by the Sirlushkar were made over to the Rajah of Kolhapore and the Raja immediately sent them to the places in question. The Governors of those places however refused to obey the orders and referred the Kolhapore people to Neepaunee. The Kolhapore officers then went to Neepaunee, accompanied by a man of mine, when they were

told that the places in question would not be given up unless Samaunghur or Buderghur were given in exchange. In the mean time the Sirlushkar continues to extort money with the utmost severity from the disputed districts and even to ravage parts of the Rajah's country, the right to which is not disputed.

The Minister has used all the exertions in his power to check these proceedings and to procure the execution of the orders of surrender and of the points settled at Poona but the Sirlushkar having retired to Neepaunee, shows no disposition to comply with his repeated instances. In these circumstances I beg leave to recommend to your Highness's particular notice the necessity of enforcing those orders by your own commands. I have no doubt your Highness is as anxious as I am, for the faithful performance of this and of all the remaining parts of the late treaty with Kolhapore but in this case an additional motive for insisting on compliance with your former orders is found in the impolicy of permitting your Jagirdars to relapse into habits of disobedience and of imagining that they can have separate wars and negotiations with foreign states involving individual rights and interests, unconnected with and often at variance with those of your Highness's Government.

As your Highness's own orders are required, I have taken the liberty to address you directly to save the time which would be requisite in communicating with your Highness through the Minister. I have addressed the Ministers Malhar Rao and Anand Rao on several other subjects connected with your Highness's affairs which I leave them to submit to you being unwilling to trouble your Highness except when it is unavoidable.

(A true translation)

M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona

Substance of a letter addressed by Mr Elphinstone to Sedashiv Mankeshwar, dated the 16th March 1813

I have received your letter on the subject of Sumpgaon Baggeewarree which affair I hope you have ere this brought to a conclusion.

I have also received a letter from Sadashiv Pandit in which he acquaints me with a message you were so good as to send by him and with the measures you have taken to enforce obedience on the part of Appa Desai Sirlushkar. The observations contained in your letter to that Chief comprehend everything that I could say on the subject. They are suitable to your own good sense and consistent with the Peshwa's honour and advantage.

It appears however to be very doubtful whether the Sirlushkar will show sufficient respect to your present orders as he has failed so much in that which was due to your former ones and it appears

to me a matter of much importance that he should not be permitted to disregard them; it is otherwise much to be feared that he may fall into the habit of considering himself as a separate and independent power making war and peace on his own account without reference to the orders or to the interests of the Court of Poona. I need not point out the bad effects of such an example on the other Jagirdars, and although you are acquainted with the anxiety which I have always shown for the maintenance of the just rights of those Chiefs, I need scarcely say that nothing would be more adverse to my wishes or indeed more inconsistent with the Governor-General's orders to me than any diminution of the legitimate authority which His Highness ought to possess over them, and which it was the sole object of the late arrangement to establish; I shall proceed to remind you of the objects which are yet to be obtained from the Sirlushkar and I shall suggest such means as seem to me best calculated for their attainment.

In the first place good faith requires the execution of the treaty with Kolhapore. The first step which is the restitution of the places to which His Highness advances no claim; His Highness ordered this restitution to take place before he left Poona, and you enforced the order with such effect that 17 orders of surrender were given by the Sirlushkar and three more promised. As after all this, restitution has not yet been made, I thought it necessary to request His Highness to support your orders with his own authority and for this purpose have addressed a letter to him of which the enclosed is a copy. I trust that His Highness's orders joined to a repetition of your own will be sufficient to effect this arrangement to which the Sirlushkar himself has already agreed; but it will afterwards be necessary to procure the surrender of any other places in his possession which on enquiry may appear to form no part either of the Peshwa's ancient possessions or of Chikory and Manowly. It will also be necessary to procure the repayment of the collections made by Appa Desai from the Raja's lands since the peace, and to prevent his molesting the Rajah in any shape hereafter. I have no doubt of His Highness's wish to observe strict justice with respect to those articles; even if he had less regard to justice I cannot suppose he would forfeit his character and break a treaty for so very trifling an object, but it is by no means improbable that the Sirlushkar may be led by personal motives to sacrifice His Highness's wishes and the good of the state to his own exclusive interests. It is therefore necessary to take measures to prevent his doing so. It will also be requisite to get him to give up the lands which he has usurped from His Highness the Peshwa. It may not however be His Highness's intention to resume those lands and it would on the whole be best to allow the Sirlushkar to keep the whole or a part of them to indemnify him for the expenses he has incurred in the Peshwa's service; but if it is His Highness's intention to resume any of them, I am afraid that it would not be easy to do so at this juncture; neither would his granting them have much appearance of generosity in the present state of circumstances, I would therefore recommend that the Sirlushkar should be

summoned to the presence, and should be kept in attendance till all these points be finally settled; at the same time I would recommend that due attention should be paid to all the Sirlushkar's reasonable claims. Above all I recommend that the above questions should be brought to a speedy issue, so that means may be adopted for coercing the Sirlushkar should he be found reluctant to pay obedience to the Peshwa's orders. There is another subject which I must bring to your notice though I have already mentioned it to the Ministers here. The Rani of Sawant Warree has lately attacked a fort in possession of the Rajah of Kolhapore and she cannot be prevailed on to desist from hostilities by any arguments which have been brought forward by the British Government. The negotiations which Captain Schuyler was conducting with the State of Warree for the purpose of suppressing piracy have therefore been broken off, and a British force has advanced to her frontier to compel her to desist from the war which she has begun with so little provocation. I have no doubt the peace of that part of the country will soon be restored. In the mean time it may be proper to put the Sirlushkar on his guard against engaging in any intrigues in that quarter which would place him in the situation of an enemy to the British Government, and a rebel to the Peshwa's.

(A true translation)

M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 28.—Elphinstone points out the causes of delay in finalising the territorial adjustments. The inordinate delay was becoming annoying and he suggests that if prompt settlement could not be effected the Governor-General may give an award. He also intimates that Appa Desai had ravaged the 17 places before he surrendered them. The enclosures are important.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, 10th April 1813.

Since the date of my last dispatch some little progress had been made in the adjustment of the affairs of Kolhapore but the final settlement of all disputes seems as remote as ever.

2. Appa Desai has given up the 17 places for which he gave orders of surrender, but he first plundered them of every article of property, carried off the cattle from all of them, and from some even the people. He promises to give up the other three places, to the surrender of which the Peshwa's Ministers formerly agreed, and the Minister expects him to come in himself before long. The Peshwa in reply to my letter, a translation of which was enclosed

in my last dispatch, sent me the most positive assurances that every article of the treaty with Kolhapore should be fulfilled and issued orders to Appa Desai to conform to the arrangement which had been settled at Poona, without delay.

3. In the mean time one of the Ministers whose business it was to attend the investigation of the Rajah of Kolhapore's claims, returned to Poona and the conference on that subject recommenced. I had information that these conferences were merely meant to amuse the British Government and that no business would be done till Sadashiv Mankeshwar's return, when the Peshwa's real views would be disclosed. Accordingly at the first meeting the Peshwa's Minister opposed unreasonable doubts to everything advanced by the Kolhapore Vakeels, and after wasting the day in fruitless conversation, asked for a fortnight to examine his papers. This was refused and the next morning he excused himself from further attendance on the plea of severe indisposition and everything is in the same state in which it was before his arrival. My intelligence represents him to be really ill, but as the Peshwa has many Ministers of his rank, his sickness affords no excuse for the suspension of all business.

4. I have written several letters and sent many messages to Sadashiv Mankeshwar on the subject of these delays, and his answers while they professed much readiness to comply with my wishes, have in reality shown great indifference to the subjects which I pointed out to his attention, and a want of any sense of the impropriety of his indulging in retirement and leisure while so much of the serious business of his Government is at a stand; nor is it impossible that the minister may be pleased with the idea that he is baffling all the efforts of the British Government by merely remaining quiet and hearing its expostulations with unconcern.

5. All these signs of a determination to delay the adjustment of the Kolhapore affairs, have induced me to address a letter, of which the enclosed is a copy to His Highness the Peshwa. Should it fail of effect I am not aware of any certain remedy except proceeding to decide on the information already obtained and calling on the Peshwa to abide by your Lordship's award; but that step might be avoided for a time and perhaps rendered unnecessary if your Lordship should deem it expedient to address a letter to His Highness the Peshwa slightly touching on the opposition experienced by your Lordship in the early stages of the negotiation with Kolhapore expressing your Lordship's disapprobation of the delays which are now practised to the great detriment of the reputation of the British Government and requiring a speedy and equitable adjustment of all the Rajah of Kolhapore's demands and a strict observation in future of the terms of the treaty which has been concluded with that prince. It might be advisable to take the occasion of your Lordship's addressing a letter to the Peshwa, to lay down

the principles which ought to regulate his Government in its treatment of the Southern Jagirdars as my dispatches will have already shown your Lordship the want of steadiness and attention with which that important branch of its public affairs is now treated by the Peshwa's Government.

6. Should this suggestion meet with your Lordship's approbation it might be advisable that the letter should be forwarded to me without delay to be delivered or not as the state of affairs at the time when it reached me, might appear to render advisable. If the Peshwa could be prevailed on to enter sincerely on the arrangement of the Rajah's claims, and if at the same time Appa Desai returned to Poona, in conformity with the Peshwa's orders, the ultimate settlement of all points might be reasonably expected and Colonel Dowse's Force might be allowed to withdraw.

Substance of a letter addressed by Mr. Elphinstone to His Highness the Peshwa, dated April 10th, 1813.

Malhar Reoonce Rao communicated to me the contents of your Highness's letter to him in which you were pleased to notice mine to your address. I beg leave to express the satisfaction which I derived from the letter your Highness wrote to the Surlushkar and have the pleasure to say that many of the points which were the immediate cause of my anxiety at that time have since been adjusted.

It gives me real concern to be obliged to trouble your Highness again so soon, but I am certain your Highness will do me the justice to observe that my addressing you on this occasion is required as much from a regard to the interest and reputation of your own Government, as by the attention which it is my duty to pay to the preservation of the good faith and honour of the British Government.

I formerly announced to the Rajah of Kolhapore that unless he complies with your Highness's just demands within 3 days he should be attacked by the British troops. The Rajah consented to your Highness's demands and signed a treaty with me on your Highness's part in which it was stipulated that all the country conquered from him within the four years and not included in Chickory, Manowlee should be restored to him. After the signature of this Treaty 5 months elapsed before a single village was restored. At the end of that time your Highness's minister acknowledged that 17 of the Turrufs which had been retained by your troops, belonged incontestibly to the Rajah, had been taken within four years and consequently ought to have been restored on the day after the Treaty was ratified. A vast number of the Rajah's claims still remain to be investigated and your Highness at my repeated request appointed certain officers to conduct the investigation. Your Highness may possibly be acquainted with the delays

which took place while you were still at Poona, when you left it the whole of your ministers withdrew and I was left with the Kolhapore Vakeels who as well as myself had been in attendance every day since the beginning of this investigation. At length Baba Cholekar has come to Poona but he has been taken ill and everything is again at a stand. His illness may be the visitation of God but I cannot believe that there is only one man in your Highness's service capable of meeting the Kolhapore Vakeels and therefore I do not think his illness affords any excuse for delay.

There cannot be a greater proof of the Governor General's friendship to your state and regard for your person, than the forbearance which he has shown during the whole of these delays. His Lordship has hitherto from his reliance on your faith.....
.....to the reports I wrote to him that the affairs of Kolhapore would be adjusted but as the faith of the British Government is as much implicated in the execution of this treaty as your Highness's, I cannot doubt but His Lordship will take a very serious view of the subject when he receives the report which I am now obliged to write to him; nor can I say what measures His Lordship may think it necessary to adopt. I think it my duty to make the above statement to your Highness with as much freedom as I would use towards his Lordship as I doubt not your own desire is to do everything that can be required of an upright Government and of a faithful ally.

(A true translation)

(Sd.) M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona.

Substance of a letter from Mr. Elphinstone to Sadashiv Mankeshwar, dated April 10th, 1813.

After suffering nearly six months of delay and neglect, I lately heard that Baba Cholekar was coming to Poona to undertake the adjustment of the Rajah of Kolhapore's claims and in consequence I flattered myself that the Peshwa's Government was now disposed to put an end to that affair; Baba Cholkar however arrived and at the first conference he asked for a fortnight to enable him to ascertain whether Caugul belonged to His Highness the Peshwa. It was agreed that he should examine his papers for a few days but he has unfortunately fallen sick and all business is again at a stand. I long ago told Malhar Reoonee Rao and Anand Rao Malhar, that if the settlement did not make more progress after Baba Cholekar's arrival, than it had done before; I should be obliged to refer the matter to my Government for its orders.

I have now done so, and I enclose a copy of a letter which I judged it necessary to write on this occasion to His Highness the Peshwa.

It would be presumptive in me to guess what measures the Right Honourable the Governor-General will take when he receives my report but I am confident there is no inconvenience he will not undergo rather than allow the smallest imputation to be cast on his fidelity to his engagements.

(A true translation)

(Sd.) M. ELPHINSTONE,

Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 29.—Elphinstone intimates that the death of the Raja of Kolhapur took place on the 26th April 1813. He left two minor sons, the elder of whom only twelve, was to succeed. The attitude of the British Government is indicated by Elphinstone.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, 26th April 1813.

MY LORD,

I am concerned to inform your Lordship of the death of the Rajah of Kolhapore. His Highness was seized with a fever while superintending a Tank which he was making in the vicinity of Kolhapore and died on the 23rd instant.

2. This event was entirely unexpected till the day before it took place. The Rajah's Vakeels only heard of their master's danger yesterday and they immediately came to me to consult on the steps to be taken in case of the Rajah's demise. By their accounts there is no apprehension of the succession being disputed between the Rajah's two sons.....parties will concur in acknowledging the elder who is indisputably the rightful heir. This prince is now only 12 years of age.

3. I acquainted the Vakeels that in the event of the Rajah's death, the British Government would consider his successor as standing on the same relation which he had himself held; that it would protect the state from foreign force, but that it would not interfere at all in the domestic concerns of the country.

4. The Vakeels endeavoured to show that it was for the interest of the British Government to interfere to prevent the continuance of Rutnakur Pant Rauje Adneea, in the Ministry, of the advancement of Nana Pautankar to that station. Those persons they said had lost the Rajah's confidence and were deprived of the means of doing harm while the Rajah lived but might recover their influence under the Government of the Infant Raja, and his.....employ it to favour Appa Desai, to break off the alliance with the British and to destroy the Government of their own country.

5. To this I replied that the lawful Government of Kolhapur must be allowed to choose its own ministers and to manage its own internal concerns; that the British Government would interpose if any foreign power took part in the affairs of that principality, and that it would of course take care that its own honour or interest did not suffer from the conduct of any Ministers that might be constituted; but that it would not be induced to take a part in the domestic transactions of the Government as long they had no reference to it or to its allies.

6. I think it extremely probable that Appa Desai will be tempted on this occasion to engage in some schemes open or concealed, for the purpose of effecting his former.....of recovering his influence over that state. I shall therefore communicate the death of the Rajah to the Peshwa's Government without delay and.....that positive orders may be given to His Highness's Sirdars to abstain from all interference with that principality; at the same time I shall make known the fixed determination of the British Government to extend to the late Raja's successor the protection which it was bound by the treaty to afford to him and to his heirs. I shall also urge the return of Appa Desai which does not seem to have been at all accelerated by the orders issued directly by His Highness the Peshwa.

7. I have received a letter from the Minister in answer to the remonstrance which I addressed to him on the subject of the delays which have taken place in the adjustment of the Raja of Kolhapur's claims (enclosed in my dispatch No. 44). The Minister in this letter takes no notice of the past delays or of the discredit which I represented them as occasioning to the Peshwa's Government but calmly requests me to rest.....that everything will be done that is required to fulfil the engagements of the British Government or to execute your Lordship's wishes.

8. The principal minister employed on the investigation of the Kolhapore claims, has returned to Poona, and is to visit me today. I cannot however say that I expect any real progress to be made in the adjustment until I shall be enabled to point out to the Peshwa himself the injustice and impolicy of the measures pursued by his ministers, and to convince him of your Lordship's resolution to enforce the execution of the Treaty with Kolhapore.

9. Having lately received a dispatch from Captain Sydenham at Aurangabad acquainting me that a force of the Peshwa's composed of some troops on His Highness's immediate service and the Contingent of the Patwardhans and other Jagirdars and estimated at 15,000 men, have.....Nizam's frontier in pursuit of a freebooter named Sheikh Dulla, and was about to enter His Highness's dominions I immediately called on the Ministers for an explanation of this proceeding. The Ministers informed me in reply that the force in question had orders to pursue Shaikh Dulla as far as the frontier but would not enter the territories of his Highness the Nizam.

10. I have had no accounts from Sawantwari nor from Captain Schuyler since the receipt of that officer's letters, dated the 19th instant.

Letter No. 30.—The letter intimates that "Baba Furkia who has been a prisoner in the fort of Basseen since he was delivered up by Appa Sahib Patwardhan, died last Saturday".

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, 11th June 1813.

After I left the Peshwa on the evening of the 8th His Highness immediately retired to a private apartment where he read my note; after which he sent for Malhar Pandit and Chintu Pant Deshmukh who remained with him till midnight.

2. He yesterday sent to Khoosroojee to desire he would attend him in the evening and on his appearing His Highness said he had read my paper (which he held in his hand), that he was much surprised at the delay that had taken place; that the Minister would reach Poona on the 12th and that he would give him positive orders on the day of his arrival to expedite all the arrangements which I had recommended to him. He said he would not delay till the Minister's arrival if the presence of Appa Desai were not essential to any effectual measure; that the delay would not exceed two days and that His Highness was resolved to see the treaty fully executed before he set out on the pilgrimage to Pandharpore (which occurs early in next month).

3. As far as language can go, His Highness's communication was entirely satisfactory and if he is not induced to alter his views I trust the present difficulties will be got over as soon as their nature permits.

4. Baba Furkia who has been a Prisoner in the fort of Basseen since he was delivered up by Appa Sahib Patwardhan, died last Saturday. As soon as I heard of this event, I recommended to the Peshwa to allow the Patwardhans and Furkia's other relations access to Basseen and free intercourse with the Bramins who had attended Furkia, so that they might be satisfied that he had not been rigidly confined and that his death was entirely owing to disease and not accelerated by the treatment he had received.

5. The Peshwa replied that Furkia's attendants had already been allowed to go where they pleased, and that he should be glad to give the utmost publicity to the manner of the Chief's death.

6. The Minister will arrive tomorrow and I hope to see the Peshwa or at least the minister on the next day.

Letter No. 31.—The latter narrates at length the discussions between the Resident on the one hand, and the Peshwa and his Minister on the other regarding the transfer of three districts by Appa Desai and the alleged refractory conduct of the latter.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, the 27th June 1813.

The Minister arrived here on the 12th and I waited for 2 days to give the Peshwa an opportunity of sending for me as he had promised but finding at the end of that time that there was nothing said about my visit, I myself sent a message to remind His Highness of it. The Peshwa was by this time engaged in some manner which prevented his seeing me and I was obliged to request to see the Minister instead of His Highness.

2. That person was unluckily seized with a fever which prevented his receiving me and every thing remained as it had been before the Peshwa's arrival, till the 19th when I at last obtained an interview with the Bhow. He soon entered on a long account of his proceedings mixed with complaints of the ill treatment he had received from Appa Desai. He repeatedly avowed that Appa Desai was not in obedience to him and more than once boasted that he could now convince me at the little ground there was for suspecting him of being in concert with that Chief.

3. He however confined himself to this sort of discourse without suggesting any remedy for the evils of which he complained; when he had finished his speech which was a very long one, I stated all that had past since the Peshwa left Poona, nearly in the same terms with those of the note enclosed in my last dispatch; but I introduced much more complaint of the Minister's own conduct and I concluded by saying that things must now be brought to some issue and that if Appa Desai was not in obedience to the Minister, I should be obliged to him if he would say so at once and leave the rest of the arrangement to me. The Minister then said he had been thinking of a plan which would probably remove all difficulties, and this was that he should wait the result of a communication he has just made to Appa Desai, one of whose Vakeels was still in the house and that if it were unsuccessful he and I should send a friendly message to Appa Desai pointing out the bad consequence of his conduct and that if it failed of effect I should take the negotiation into my own hand and recover not only the Rajah of Kolhapore's districts but those belonging to the Peshwa which Appa Desai held without authority. I objected to this proposal, observing that as I had already broken off all communication with Appa Desai, it would not be consistent with the dignity of the

British Government for me to begin again by an application which if refused would lead to no further consequences, and that when His Highness the Peshwa was prepared to make over all negotiations with Appa Desai to me, in the same manner as had been done with the other Jagirdars then and not till then I should be ready to send such a message as the Minister proposed.

4. The Minister here interrupted me, to say that I had misunderstood him, and that his meaning was, that I should support my message in any manner, I thought proper. For added he, when a Chief has set the Government at defiance, why should I be anxious to make terms for him. I then resumed my discourse and said that the British Government was not bound to assist the Peshwa in retrieving opportunities of asserting his rights which had been lost by the mismanagement of his own ministers and by their disregard of its advice, but that its first object was the promotion of His Highness's interests and it would not therefore refuse to interfere in his favour, but that if the Peshwa intended to resume all the lands held by Appa Desai, he ought to pay such expenses as that Sirdar had bona fide incurred in recovering them from the Rajah of Kolhapore, for whatever might have been Appa Desai's conduct, it would not become the Government to treat him with injustice. The minister contested this argument and showed an anxiety for the recovery of the Peshwa's lands which made the Kolhapore affair appear to be in his eyes a very secondary consideration. I put an end to this, by saying that we might discuss the subject of Appa Desai's and the Peshwa's claims hereafter and asking whether I was to consider myself as authorized to negotiate with Appa Desai in the same manner as with the other Jagirdars. The Minister affected to hesitate and at last said that he should receive Appa Desai's final answer that night or at latest next day when he would let me know the result and if it was not entirely favourable, I might take the matter into my own hands. I said I should expect his final answer on the next day but one, at farthest, and left him almost persuaded that Appa Desai was really refractory and that the Bhow seeing the danger of his late proceedings was desirous to guard against their effects before it was too late.

5. I had before heard that Appa Desai had begun to hold very high and threatening language with the Minister, and had declared his intention of quitting the Peshwa's service if the present demands were persevered in and I soon learned that after I left the minister he had really sent a peremptory message to Appa Desai. Great therefore was my surprize, when I sent a native at the appointed time for the Bhow's final answer, to receive a message from that minister acquainting me that Appa Desai said he would give the orders of surrender for three remaining districts which it had been settled in March that he was to give up, but that in the mean time he wished to leave Poona for the purpose of celebrating another marriage in addition to the five which had so long detained him at Neepaunce. I lost no time in replying that

I would not receive the orders of surrender nor admit of any compromise short of the complete execution of all my demands and that if the Minister allowed Appa Desai to depart, I should consider it as an acknowledgement either of inability or of unwillingness to control him on the part of the Peshwa's Government, and should proceed to act according to the orders I might receive from your Lordship without any reference to them. Immediately after dispatching this reply I learned that Appa Desai had actually marched within eight or nine hours after my conference with the Minister and consequently at least six and thirty hours before the Bhow had sent his message to me.

6. On receiving this account I sent immediately to acquaint His Highness the Peshwa that I had received a letter from your Lordship to him on important business, and that I begged I might be allowed to deliver it at His Highness's earliest convenience. I also sent to Anand Rao and Malhar Rao who had announced their intention to wait on me from the Bhow, begging that they might not give themselves the trouble as no benefit could now be expected except from direct communication with His Highness the Peshwa. The minister's answer first arrived, he stated that Appa Desai had set off without his knowledge, that he was amazed to hear of it and that of course that Chief must be considered as being in open rebellion. The Peshwa's answer was that a circumstance in his own family obliged him with the greatest reluctance to defer receiving your Lordship's letter for three days. I sent an immediate answer to His Highness to say that I did not mean to put His Highness to inconvenience but that if it were possible to get over the obstacle he alluded to, it was due to His friendship for your Lordship to receive your letter on so serious an occasion without any delay. In the evening Anand Rao and Malhar Rao came to me with further explanations from the Peshwa and with an earnest request that I would put off my visit till the 26th to which I immediately agreed. They also brought stronger assurance than ever from the Peshwa of his determination to enforce the execution of the treaty without delay and they stated His Highness to be much incensed at the contempt that was shown for him and they added a message from the Bhow full of indignation against Appa Desai who was treated as the worst of rebels and traitors but concluding with a promise couched in violent language, that if he did not return by Thursday I should be allowed to deal with him as I thought proper. I returned respectful and cordial answer to the Peshwa, but when the ministers asked me what they were to say to the Bhow, I said it would be an ample answer to repeat his own proposal. He had promised in the most solemn manner that unless Appa Desai afforded full satisfaction in course of the 20th the negotiation should be made over to me; that the period fixed was passed and that in consequence of an intermediate act of what he termed treachery and rebellion, the Bhow now proposed that every thing should lie over till the 25th when (in case Appa Desai did not return) he would consider about keeping his promise.

7 My audience of the Peshwa was fixed for yesterday and to save the time required for translating your Lordship's letter into Marathi after the Peshwa had received it, as well as to prevent the suppression of any passage which might be offensive to the Ministers I prepared a translation to be delivered with the letter. There is only one man about His Highness's Court who understands Persian and his knowledge is very imperfect. In course of the day I learned that Appa Desai was on his return to Poona. I waited on the Peshwa yesterday evening as was settled. I found the Minister at the place where His Highness did not arrive for near an hour. The Minister however showed no disposition to introduce the affairs of Kolhapore and I was not desirous to speak on the subject with him, our conversation was therefore confined to other matters of business and to General topics, when His Highness arrived I presented your Lordship's letter and said that I had instructions to make further communications to His Highness but that I had no doubt your Lordship would approve of my abstaining from them as I was persuaded His Highness's wishes were the same as your Lordship's. I then proceeded to acquaint him with all that had passed since my last visit without making it a personal complaint against the Minister but yet concealing no part of his conduct that was necessary to my narrative. I concluded by requesting to know His Highness's pleasure. During this discourse the Peshwa appeared perfectly at his ease but the Minister appeared to be agitated by the greatest anxiety and alarm.

8 The Peshwa replied by some observations in moderate language on the impropriety of Appa Desai's conduct and announced his resolution of adhering to the arrangement which had been made between the Minister and me and of staying at Poona till every thing was settled to my satisfaction, he then directed the Minister to read the translation of your Lordship's letter but either from an apprehension of some animadversions on his own conduct or to relieve the Minister's evident confusion he stopped the reading before the compliments at the beginning had been finished and said that he would have it read to him along with the Persian when he retired to his own residence. I then told him briefly the contents of the letter and observed that the period fixed on by the Minister had already passed and that if His Highness meant to abide by that arrangement I concluded I was to consider myself as empowered to begin a negotiation with Appa Desai. The Peshwa replied that he thought it would be proper to see him first himself, that I was always an advocate for the treating Sirdars with civility and that he was sure I should agree that this was due to a Sirdar. The Minister who had recovered his spirits when he found no direct attack made on him, joined in this argument and spoke for a long time in defence of himself in reprobation of Appa Desai and in favour of giving that chief some more time to decide. He also said the Peshwa was desirous to postpone all his own demands on Appa Desai and confine himself to the settlement of the claims of Kolhapore.

9. In reply to all this I said that I had no wish to hurry His Highness's decision but that I begged him to recollect that if Appa Desai agreed to all that was demanded of him (as I had no doubt he would) nothing would be gained. All his present obstinacy was about three districts and some prisoners; every other point either required the production of accounts or a regular examination of treaties. I had before experienced the delays I should meet with in the enquiry and the disregard with which my decisions would be treated and after all, my proceedings would be rendered nugatory by the real or pretended insubordination of Appa Desai. I said that it was only His Highness's presence that gave me any hope of an adjustment at present and that in whatever state the affair was when he left Poona, there, I was persuaded, it would remain till he returned. His Highness having said the minister would remain I could not but remark the little advantage I had as yet received from his presence and went on to state the neglect and disregard I had met with particularly in the instance of the Deshmukh's refusal to abide by my decision. I requested His Highness to put himself in your Lordship's place or to imagine his receiving the treatment from the British Government which it had met with from his ministers and then repeated that nothing could secure the fulfilment of the treaty but his making over all arrangements with Appa Desai to me. His Highness then explained some plans by which he meant to secure Appa Desai's obedience one of which was to keep him at Poona till every thing was settled and said he certainly should make him over to me if he did not readily engage to fulfil all demands against him.

10. I then remarked on the light in which the delivering up of Appa Desai appeared to be regarded, declared that I had no orders and no wish to proceed to any extreme measure with him, that I should adopt the same course I had done with the other Jagirdars, that I hoped all demands would be quietly agreed to, but that I would see they were enforced. I said the British Government had shown by its conduct from the first introduction of Appa Desai into His Highness's service, that it had no enmity to him and on a recent occasion it had shown that it had no undue partiality for the Raja of Kolhapore but that it was aware that obedience could never be secured but by decision, and I then reminded the minister that I had told him six months ago that however well he and Appa Desai might understand each other at that time, a perseverance in the system he adopted would soon lose him all authority over that chieftain. The Peshwa made some civil answer and repeated the promise he had made at first that I should have his answer on the day following Appa Desai's arrival. In course of the conversation it appeared that His Highness had not been informed of my having declined to negotiate directly with Appa Desai for the last four months, and that he believed the Minister to have been all this time

acting in concert with me. I therefore acquainted him that as soon as I found the difference of opinion which existed respecting the affairs of Kolhapore, I had dropped all communication with His Highness's Sirdar on that subject and formally consigned the entire conduct on the affair to the Minister.

11. I then told His Highness when he read your Lordship's letter to remember by how much provocation it had been produced and that I was sure he would then be struck by the friendly and moderate terms in which it was expressed. The Peshwa admitted that your Lordship had great cause to be displeased and said he was certain there could be nothing in the letter which his conviction of your Lordship's friendship would not enable him to receive with good will.

12. He then talked of Captain Ford's Brigade with a great deal of interest and soon after withdrew. Captain Ford paid His Highness a visit after I was gone to acquaint him with the progress made in raising his Batallions and His Highness declared his intention of proceeding on the 28th or 29th to inspect the arms and stores that have been procured from Bombay.

13. Appa Desai's journey appears to have been merely an experiment to ascertain the lengths he would be permitted to go. It appears to me to have been concerted or at least connived at by the Minister, his assertion that he did not know of it till a day and a half after it had taken place, is too improbable to deserve any attention, while the insincerity of his whole discourse on the evening of the 19th and of his message on the 21st are rendered to manifest by his subsequent conduct to entitle his word to any sort of respect. I have taken an opportunity which offered today to enquiring into the meaning of his advice to the Peshwa so opposite to his own propositions first of waiting till the 21st and then till the 25th and of acquainting him that no arrangement that can now be made, short of committing all negotiation to me, will give me the smallest confidence that the execution of the treaty is intended.

14. His Highness the Peshwa some days ago sent me a letter from the Rajah of Berar expressing his wish to come to Jejoory and his hope that he would be received with the usual attentions on which he requested my advice. I advised him to give the Raja free permission and an honorable reception; since he has repeatedly expressed his wish that no interview between the Raja and His Highness's brother, Chinnajee Appa, should be insisted on, to which I replied that His Highness was the best judge, that I saw no necessity for such an interview but that it ought to be avoided in some manner which would not excite any suspicion of distrust on His Highness's part towards his brother.

Letter No. 32.—This long dispatch a copy of which was sent to George Sotheby, Esquire, in-charge, Nagpur Residency during the absence of R. Jenkins, Esqr., conveys the discussions he had with the Peshwa on,—

- (i) the issue of territorial settlement in the case of Appa Desai and Raja of Kolhapur,
- (ii) the case of Patwardhan, the Chief of Sawantwari,
- (iii) the case of Rastia, and
- (iv) the procedure to be adopted in reaching a settlement in all these cases in consultation with the Peshwa's minister.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, the 1st July 1813.

My last dispatch to your Lordship was dated on the 27th. On the evening of that day the Parsee accountant to the Residency was sent for by the Minister who proposed on the Peshwa's part a new mode of settling all difficulties respecting Appa Desai, which was that he (the Minister) and I, should immediately begin on an enquiry into all the Rajah of Kolhapore's claims and conduct it so that it should be completely finished in course of three days. His Highness could then issue orders for the surrender of the places adjudged to the Rajah after which he would proceed on his pilgrimage. I was greatly surprized at so entire a change in the Peshwa's councils so soon after I had seen him and previous to Appa Desai's arrival and I pointed out in answer to it the utter impossibility of finishing such an enquiry in a few days even if the Minister were zealous in promoting it and the case with which he might put off the conclusion of it for nine months longer if he were so disposed. I said I was ready to begin on the investigation immediately and to pursue it daily till it was concluded, but that the immediate commencement of it could not induce me to forego my demands of security for its being attended with some practical result. I therefore repeated my request that powers might be given to me to carry the decisions, which the enquiry might produce, into effect. I concluded by requesting to see His Highness and observed that such a meeting was absolutely necessary whether he gave me powers or not, in the one case to learn his wish how they should be exercised and in the other to ascertain what expedient His Highness proposed instead.

2. In consequence of this message Malhar Rao and Anand Rao came to me on the same day to acquaint me that the Peshwa would leave me full powers to do all that might be agreed to by the Minister, which was in fact leaving the Minister full powers to prevent my doing any thing. In reply to this message I said to the Ministers that I would tell them candidly that I had no confidence in the Bhow who had thwarted all the measures I was instructed to carry, ever since the treaty with Kolhapur was concluded; an

who had twice pledged his word for the adoption of a plan of his own proposing and afterwards had opposed it with all his might. That the principal satisfaction I expected His Highness to give, was his putting me out of the Minister's power and I could not consent to his being associated with me in the execution of an arrangement which he had all along done his utmost to retard. This declaration brought new assurances and still more solemn promises than before on the Bhow's part, but it was now too late for them to produce any effect.

3. I then enquired whether any thing was fixed respecting my visit to His Highness and the Ministers replied that I should see His Highness next day at the Arsenal; on my representing that I wished to speak to His Highness on business and not merely to accompany him while he inspected the Arms, the Ministers said they were afraid it could not be managed as the Peshwa was to march on the next day at sunrise. I could scarcely conceal my amazement at the entire disregard of the Peshwa's promises which this intention disclosed, but I sent a respectful message to His Highness to say that I had no doubt as he was going to set off so soon, that he had adopted some resolution which would fulfil all the expectations which the language he had been good enough to hold, had excited. I also stated the absolute necessity of my seeing him before he went, on which the Ministers promised that I should be received on the evening of the 30th. The day on which His Highness was to have marched.

4. Next day I received a visit from the Kolhapur Vakeels who acquainted me that they had reason to believe that the Peshwa had been persuaded that if he would leave the management of the negotiations with me to the Bhow, that Minister would contrive to amuse me and to allow His Highness to depart without further trouble.

5. On the morning of the 30th Anand Rao came with the Vinchoor Jagirdar to deliver a complimentary message on an occasion of rejoicing in the Peshwa's family. I detained him after the other was gone, to enquire the result of a meeting which the Peshwa had on the preceding evening with Appa Desai, that Chieftain having arrived on the 28th. He informed me that the Peshwa had pointed out the consequences of his disobedience and had referred him to the Minister and me for all future orders. I then told Anand Rao that I did not consider this as making any alteration whatever in the posture of affairs of which I had so often complained, and that if His Highness marched without taking any further step I should be obliged reluctantly to believe that His Highness had no real intention of fulfilling the Treaty.

6. On the evening of the 30th I attended the Peshwa at the palace and introduced Mr. Malet to His Highness. As soon as that gentleman withdrew, I acquainted His Highness that I understood he was determined to set off for Pandharpore in one day and that

I trusted His Highness intended before he went, to make some satisfactory arrangement for the settlement of the disputes with Kolhapur and not to allow them to be again neglected as they had been during his last absence. His Highness in answer gave an account of his conversation with Appa Desai and said he had ordered him to obey every thing which the Bhow and I might say to him. I said His Highness had done exactly the same before his last journey, but that it had been productive of little effect and I begged to know what measures he intended taking to secure its superior efficacy on this occasion. His Highness stated that his orders were more positive than ever and that Appa Desai must now be aware that if he again neglected them, he would be preparing his own ruin.

7. I observed that the same threats had been held out to Appa Desai before and that he had nevertheless repeatedly disobeyed His Highness's orders, and I added that nothing short of giving me powers to enforce them, would secure their execution hereafter. His Highness answered that from the time of the Treaty of Basseen he had always meant the British Government to have full power to conduct his affairs; that he had never objected to any thing; that it had done with Sindhia, Holkar or the Bhonsla; and that he would not do so on the present occasion ; he also spoke with some impatience of my doubts and repeated questions when he was so unreserved. I begged His Highness not to attribute my questions to doubts of his friendship for the British Government, but that in matters of business it was necessary to be quite clear and distinct that although as His Highness said, we often acted on the part of the allies in transactions with foreign states, yet it was a matter of much greater delicacy interfering in the domestic concerns of his Government and it was particularly necessary to know his own wishes distinctly regarding those affairs before we proceeded to act on them on His Highness's behalf. The Peshwa seemed pleased with the first part of this explanation and answered that he would express no wish on the subject but would be perfectly satisfied with anything that might be settled between the Minister and me.

8. Perceiving that in the midst of all his professions His Highness was still determined to leave every thing to be settled hereafter with the Bhow and convinced that the Minister would not fail to protract the adjustment till His Highness's return if not longer, I thought it necessary to drop all ceremony and replied that His Highness had before referred me to the Minister and that during a long period I had met with nothing but disappointment and slight at his hands; that he had broken his word with me thrice during the last week, and that I could therefore have no confidence in his sincerity and that if His Highness threw me off upon him after all that had past, I should be obliged to conclude that His Highness did not wish the adjustment to take place.

9. A long conversation then ensued between the Peshwa and the Bhow at the conclusion of which, His Highness recapitulated all the ill usage he had received from Appa Desai, particularly his contempt of all orders respecting the restitution of the Kolhapore lands, and declared that he now gave him up and that I might do as I pleased with him, but he added that he considered this as no new power vested in me but as the same he had always meant me to possess.

10. Notwithstanding the ambiguity of this last expression I made a reply expressive of the readiness with which I undertook the affair and said, I should be happy to know what His Highness wished me to do respecting his own lands which were held without authority by Appa Desai, to which His Highness answered that he wished me to resume them all and to settle Appa Desai's affairs entirely and at once. I said that was undoubtedly desirable but that there were three ways of settling the question about the lands held by Appa Desai without authority, and I should be glad to know which His Highness wished to be adopted. 1st His Highness might grant sunnuds to Appa Desai for those lands and allow no mention of his pecuniary claims on His Highness, or and he might assign the whole or a part of them to Appa Desai for such a period as would suffice for the discharge of those claims out of the collections from the land so assigned and 3rd His Highness might pay Appa Desai the money which should really appear to be due to him and resume the whole of the lands at once. His Highness answered that if Appa Desai had made any expenditure on his account he would be able to show some authority for doing so, and that if he did, His Highness would of course reimburse him. Being aware of the drift of this speech I observed that the delivery of the conquered countries to His Highness was a sufficient proof of the expense of the conquest being incurred in His Highness's service, and that all that remained to be done was to ascertain what that expense really amounted to.

11. His Highness then went fully into Appa Desai's history and stated that he had carried on his wars in Kolhapore without any reference to His Highness, he had made treaties stipulating for his marriage into the Rajah's family; and securing Jagirs and other objects for himself, he had levied large contributions on the Raja's country for his own use, he had withheld the Government's share of the booty taken in battle and even the lands which he had occupied in the Peshwa's name he had retained and still did retain for his own benefit. In short said the Peshwa, he made war for himself and now calls on me to pay the expenses of it.

12. Before I answered this, I said it was whimsical enough that I should now be arguing on Appa Desai's part against His Highness, but that however ill he may have behaved to the British Government, I had never entertained any wish but to obtain what was in justice due to ourselves and our allies and that I still thought it as necessary as ever that full justice should be done to him. I

then observed that Appa Desai would probably urge in opposition to the argument His Highness had stated, that if he had been making war on his own account, he alone ought to profit by his conquests; and that if he was fighting to recover the Peshwa's territories, His Highness ought to defray the expense he had thus incurred. The Peshwa said that after all the insolence he had experienced from Appa Desai, he could not reconcile himself to the idea of at last obtaining his just rights by the payment of a sum of money to a refractory subject.

13. I was somewhat embarrassed by the view in which the Peshwa now put the question. If His Highness's Government had been sincere in its endeavours to oblige Appa Desai to fulfil the treaty, his disobedience had no doubt entitled it not only to withhold the sum under discussion but to confiscate his Jagir; on the other hand although I was unwilling to revive the mention of the insincerity of His Highness's Government, I could not but remember that Appa Desai's misconduct in certain points at least, was permitted by the Minister and I was desirous before I decided against listening to his claims, to ascertain the real extent of his disobedience, and also the amount of the loss which he was likely to sustain by such a decision. I therefore avoided replying to what the Peshwa stated and proceeded to submit to His Highness the plan I proposed to adopt. I told him I should immediately address a letter to Appa Desai acquainting him that His Highness had invested me with powers to settle his affairs; should require him to give up all lands which he unjustly withheld either from the Peshwa or the Rajah of Kolhapore. That at the same time I should inform him that His Highness the Peshwa was willing to pay him any money that might be due to him on a fair balance of accounts, but that unless he immediately complied with my other demands this offer would be withdrawn. If Appa Desai did not instantly comply with this demand, I said, it would be necessary to move troops against him, and to consider his pecuniary claims as forfeited if not to subject him to some further privation, for the sake of example, and that if Appa Desai went to war he must take the chances of war and submit to be put on such a footing as the allied Governments might think best; His Highness said he highly approved of this plan but that he knew the Marrattas better than I did and that he was certain if I allowed a settlement of accounts to be mentioned it would furnish Appa Desai with a pretence for keeping me in uncertainty for six months. To obviate this objection I said I should not allow the surrender of the lands to depend on the adjustment of accounts but should require the one to be made immediately while I promised the other at a subsequent period.

14. The Peshwa then again expressed his concurrence in my plan but still objected to admitting Appa Desai's pecuniary claims and proposed if I thought he really had such claims to settle them by excusing Appa Desai from maintaining his contingent for a year or two or by some other expedient, declaring that his wish

was that the objects of our Government and his own should be attained, without giving him any trouble, and without imposing any burden upon his state, and that he trusted to me for accomplishing his desire now that I was acquainted with it.

15 Though His Highness had now very plainly expressed his consent to all essential parts of the plan which I proposed, I still thought prudent to remove all doubt from the terms in which he empowered me to act for him, and I therefore stated to him that I considered His Highness to have given me full power to act in Appa Desai's affairs without any participation and control, in the same manner as I had done in the settlement at Pandharpore but that there remained another branch of the adjustment in which I should require the information and assistance of His Highness's ministers. This was the enquiry into the limits of Chickory and Manowly in which I hoped he would instruct his Ministers to afford me information with promptitude and to abide by any decisions I might pass in your Lordship's name on the questions that might arise. His Highness now said he would tell me frankly all that was passing in his mind. He said he never had felt the smallest reluctance to entrust me with the powers I required, which were no more than he had before given of his own accord, but that after all that had passed he was afraid that his Government might be exposed to slight and his minister to disgrace and that all he wanted of me was to have a regard to his dignity and to treat the minister as if no dispute had taken place and let the world see that he was consulted and trusted as before. With respect to the conduct of the affairs in question, my powers were full and unreserved. In answer to the second part of what I had said regarding the enquiry he talked of the most suitable place for holding it and of the best manner of carrying it on, and here he seemed to take it for granted that I should consult with the Bhow on the awards which were to be passed, and to overlook the distinction between hearing that Minister's pleadings on his master's side, and being guided by his opinion in the decision of the case. I first took notice of what he said of the minister, assured him that the honour of his Government would be exposed to no detriment as I should act in its name and on its behalf, and should proceed on the principles which I had just settled with His Highness, that as far as depended on me the Minister should suffer no disgrace, that it was my duty to promote the affairs of my own Government and to encounter any person who resisted its just demands, but that such disputes did not occasion the slightest personal enmity and when I saw the Minister concurring in the measures which I had to execute. I should treat him with perfect cordiality and be happy to show him every mark of consideration and respect. But I had to beg His Highness's attention to the inconsistency of my consulting him on the decision of a case in which His Highness was a party and which the British Government was bound to arbitrate without favour. I reminded His Highness of the terms of the 12th article of the treaty of Basseen, alluded to the Deshmukh's refusal to abide by my

award; and claimed the right of final decision which was vested in the British Government by a formal engagement on His Highness's part. His Highness admitted the right of the British Government to pronounce on any question that might arise; he requested that when any difficulty occurred, I would consult with the Minister but said that if after discussing the subject, we continued to differ, my decision should be final. He exculpated the Deshmukh by alleging that although the district of Causal had originally belonged to Kolhapore, it had long ago been taken by His Highness and that the object of the present enquiry was not to recover for the Raja all the possessions he had ever lost, but to restore those which had been taken within the last four years. It might have been shown that this argument was inapplicable, for though Causal may have been at some period in the Peshwa's hands it originally belonged to the Rajah, was held by him without any considerable intermission from the first division of the Maratha Empire, and was actually taken from him the last time within these four years; but as it was already dark I was unwilling to lose the little time that remained, in a discussion foreign to the great object of the meeting. I therefore acquiesced in the Peshwa's proposal respecting the Minister and said that if His Highness had any doubt of the propriety of my award it would be perfectly regular to refer to your Lordship but that his Minister ought not to put a slight on the British Government by publicly refusing to abide by its authorised decisions. His Highness then very earnestly disclaimed all intention of throwing any reflection on my conduct, and that he had perfect confidence that what I decided would be strictly conformable to justice, but said that a great deal of management and forbearance was requisite in these matters; that many things ought to be overlooked and all discussions avoided that were not absolutely necessary, that this had been done by Sir B. Close, Captain Sydenham and other Residents at this Court; that I had also done so hitherto and he hoped, I would continue mistakes into which they might happen to fall.

16. If it had been necessary to remove any bad impressions of the present measures from His Highness's mind, it would have been easy to show the extreme forbearance which has been observed in the negotiations relating to the Treaty with Kolhapore (especially on the very occasion now alluded to) and to have called to His Highness's recollection many occurrences which had drawn down severe animadversion on his minister, particularly during the administration of the two officers whose names have been mentioned; but as his observation was by no means made in the tone of complaint and none of the facts I might have mentioned could really have escaped His Highness, I thought it best to reply to the first part of his speech alone, which I did by saying that I was too sensible of His Highness's goodness to have supposed that he meant to reflect on my conduct but that as it was by no means unlikely that I might fall into mistakes, I had put His Highness in mind

of the regular mode of rectifying them, and with regard to the behaviour which he desired towards His Highness's ministers I assured him that I should proceed with them exactly as I had done while at Pandharpore. With this His Highness showed himself highly satisfied and the subject of the Kolhapore Treaty concluded.

17 I next mentioned the request of the Patwardhans that they might be allowed to dismiss their contingents during the rains, to which after some discussion His Highness consented. The facts which led to the discussion are curious (as showing the probable source of most of the difficulties which are experienced in the management of the affairs of the Jagirdars), and may be worth your Lordship's attention if they have any further consequences, but I shall not add to the length of this dispatch by relating them at present.

18 The Peshwa next complained of Rastia's conduct and said he should no longer consider him as in his service, but I had nothing to say in Rastia's defence and His Highness did not speak of adopting any measures regarding him. I made no reply Rastia's conduct has certainly been unjustifiable. He was called on along with the other Jagirdars to serve with his contingent but as he is known to be under great pecuniary difficulties he was allowed a long period to prepare his troops for the field. He represented that the most productive part of his Jagir was in the hands of another Sirdar to whom he had mortgaged it for a sum of money and who retained it after the money was discharged in consequence of some dispute about accounts. As soon as this affair was settled he said he was ready to take the field. With a view to forward this object I agreed with the consent of both parties to investigate the dispute and was employed together with Holkar's Vekeel for the greater part of four months in this investigation. Rastia all the time assuring me that he would send off his troops as soon as his cause was decided which assurances I repeated to the Peshwa's Ministers, great indulgence was shown to him in the muster of his troops, which took place in February or March and as he represented that the assertion of certain claims of the Ministers on the mortgaged part of his Jagir would deprive him of the means of paying his troops, the ... in a manner which did him great credit consented not to urge his claims. At length in the end of April his cause was determined in a manner particularly favourable to him, his lands were restored and a large sum paid to him on account of arrears, but although he has been repeatedly urged to fulfil his promises he has made no show of preparing his troops except pitching five or six tents in the direction of the place to which he is ordered to march. I shall take an opportunity of proposing that some notice should be taken of his conduct, but if it had been discussed in the disposition which the Peshwa showed towards him, His Highness would probably have insisted on resuming the whole of his Jagir lands

Letter No. 33.—The dispatch gives a detailed account of the efforts made by Elphinstone to effect an adjustment of all the points at issue between Appa Desai on the one hand and the Peshwa and the Raja of Kolhapore on the other. An army had been ordered to stand by to attack Appa Desai if he did not agree to the demands of Elphinstone chosen as the arbiter by the Peshwa. On the threat of employment of force, Appa Desai agreed to surrender the places that were required of him.

The enclosures are also important.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, the 15th July 1813.

In my last dispatch I had the honour to acquaint your Lordship with the Peshwa's consent to my undertaking the adjustment of all the points to be settled with Appa Desai. I have now the honour to report my proceedings in consequence of that arrangement.

2. The first point to be attended to was to secure the means of enforcing the demands which it was necessary to bring forward against Appa Desai. The force under Lieutenant Colonel Dowse which was encamped within 30 miles of Neepaunee would have been amply sufficient in other circumstances, but as Appa Desai was himself near this Capital with a force of 2000 horse, 1000 foot and 5 guns, it became requisite to take measures to protect the town in case of any rupture with him, to prevent his escape if possible, and at all events to prevent his marching off in open enmity to the Government and plundering the country as he went. The Peshwa's departure and the permission which had been granted to most of the Jagirdars to return to their lands, had left the place destitute of any sufficient force of His Highness's own, and though the Brigade at this place could easily have defeated Appa Desai's troops and taken his guns and baggage, it could not have spared a detachment sufficient to secure the cantonments from his horse during an attack on his Camp and still less could it have protected the town or have prevented his plundering the neighbouring country till a body of cavalry could be assembled to act against him. I therefore addressed a letter to Colonel Montresor requesting his opinion on the measures to be adopted and informing him of my wish that a Battalion of infantry should be kept ready to move at the shortest warning. Colonel Montresor with a view to furnishing a detachment sufficient to pursue Appa Desai without weakening the Brigade at Poona ordered two battalions to be held in readiness and recommended that the first movement on Appa Desai's part should be the signal for an attack on his camp.

3. After these arrangements had been concerted, I addressed the latter of which enclosed (No 1) is a translation to Appa Desai and at the same time dispatched the enclosed letter No 2 to Colonel Montresor

4. Before I sent my letter to Appa Desai I waited on the Minister to show him the draft I had made out, he entirely concurred in the greater part of it which he said contained the very demands which he had so long been urging but he objected to the last paragraph which originally contained a promise that the Peshwa would satisfy any demands of Appa Desai which should appear to be well founded on an examination of his accounts. I stated that the Peshwa had given his consent to this promise, but the Minister explained what His Highness had said in a manner which took away that meaning from his expressions. I afterwards ascertained by enquiry from the persons who were witnesses to the Peshwa's conversation with me, that the sense which the minister put on His Highness's language was correct, but as I was not aware of that circumstance at the time, I merely said that whatever might have been His Highness's intention, I should certainly not pledge myself to any thing which depended on him as long as I had any doubt of the disposition of his Government to carry it into effect, but that I should conceive the British Government to be at liberty to withdraw from all share in the transaction unless it could be satisfied of the justice of the principles on which it was to be conducted. In that case I said the British Government would confine itself to enforcing the demands on Appa Desai which were connected with the Treaty with Kolhapore. The principal arguments employed by the Minister to prove the injustice of admitting Appa Desai's pecuniary claims without more limitation were that the expenses he wished to charge were made without authority, that he had once applied for leave to incur some expense by entertaining more troops but his request was rejected and a reinforcement was sent to him, that his wars, though carried on with the Peshwa's resources, were not conducted according to His Highness's instructions, Appa Desai having taken it upon him to make war and peace at his own discretion and even to make a peace on conditions which merely referred to himself personally without the Peshwa's previous permission and without apprizing His Highness of the terms after the peace was concluded, that he had appropriated all the contributions levied on the Rajah's country, the plunder obtained in Battle or in ravaging the country and the Revenue of all the conquered districts to his own use, and ought therefore to hold himself completely indemnified for all the expenses of his wars. But the strongest argument the Minister made use of was, that from Appa Desai's neglect of the Government, the measures usually taken when a Sirdar was authorized to expend money on the part of the state, had been omitted, the Government had no officers to muster his troops, to inspect his accounts, or to ascertain the amount either of his disbursements or of his acquisitions and that in consequence, it had now no check on his impositions, and, if it once consented

to.....it would be bound to pay any sum he might think proper to demand as it had not the means of disproving any of his statements.

5. These arguments appeared to me to have great weight, but I declined giving any decision on the question to which they related and proceeded to discuss the measures to be adopted for supporting the demands of the Government. The Minister agreed in all my views on the subject, and as there appeared to be scarcely any troops in Poona, he was easily persuaded to retain 1000 horse of Gokhla's and 500 other troops that were to have followed the Peshwa and to send them to a position in the rear of Appa Desai's Camp and consequently between that Chief and the Southern Ghats.

6. Next day I made all the enquiry I could, into the grounds of Appa Desai's pecuniary claims, and, having satisfied myself of the general accuracy of the Minister's statement I made alteration which he proposed in my letter and sent it to Appa Desai. I received an answer from him next morning saying that he would send his Vakeel to me. The Vakeel not making his appearance I wrote the enclosed letter No. 3 to Appa Desai to prevent his being alarmed by the approach of the troops from Seroor.

7. On the 8th the troops arrived, and those of the Poona Brigade moving out at the same time, they took up ground close to Appa Desai's Camp on two different faces, so as completely to enclose his troops. A body of horse might still escape from between the Corps, but no general movement is any longer practicable. The troops took up their positions without any appearance either of opposition or alarm on Appa Desai's part.

8. On the evening before the arrival of the troops, Appa Desai's Vakeel came to me and professed entire submission on the master's part. I then read the list of places demanded by the Peshwa and requested the principal Vakeel to state whatever he had to offer on each head. He brought forward claims to almost every place demanded and I concluded by desiring him to bring me orders of surrender for the whole, and promised that after I had received them he should have an opportunity of pleading his own cause to the Peshwa's ministers in my presence. It was too late to enter on the Kolhapore affair, but before the Vakeel went he remonstrated against bringing troops against Appa Desai; protested that his master had never entertained a thought but what was consistent with the orders of the Peshwa and the wishes of the British Government, and concluded by an offer on his master's part to go with 200 horse to any place, I should appoint. I told him these were exactly the professions he had always made, that they had never hitherto been remembered when any thing was required to be performed; and therefore he must now allow me to take such measures as I thought more likely to secure the fulfilment of his promises and to wait for some solid proofs of the Appa Desai's sincerity before I trusted to his declarations alone for the accomplishment of the wishes of the Peshwa and the British Government.

9. Notwithstanding all these professions the Vakeels showed as much desire as ever to procrastinate the settlement of all questions between Appa Desai and the Government; they have always found pretences for coming to me late in the evening as to prevent a full discussion of their affairs from taking place at one meeting; and on the day succeeding the conference I have mentioned, they brought the orders of surrender without Appa Desai's signature for my approval but on my remonstrating on these evasions and delay they on the next day produced the orders executed in due form, and promised that no delay would be made in the surrender of the places when the orders were presented. I then proceeded to the Kolhapore claims, the principal of which were for the fort and district of Hoopree and for lands valued at 25,000 Rupees which Appa Desai obliged the Rajah to confer on him as a personal Jagir on condition of Military service. There could be no dispute about Hoopree, the Rajah's right to it having been admitted and an order of surrender promised as long ago as last February, but the principal Vakeel brought forward every argument that could be devised in favour of his Master's right to the Jagir. My only argument was the same which I employed in February, that the Jagir must either have been ceded to the Peshwa or granted to Appa Desai; that in the first case it came within the description of places to be restored, having been taken within four years, and that in the second the Rajah's right to resume the Jagir could not be disputed, particularly as he had so little reason to be pleased with Appa Desai's service. The Vakeel's principal argument was founded on the custom of the Maratta nation which he said constantly admitted of grants of this kind by which lands were transferred by one state to the servants of another, and were afterwards held by them under the Government to whose service they belonged; such lands were neither purely cessions to the state nor grants to the individual but something of a different nature which it was reckoned gross perfidy to resume under my circumstances. He moreover stated that the lands in question were situated in the district of Chickory and belonged to the Peshwa, and that His Highness would certainly never deprive Appa Desai of the advantages which he had acquired by so many years of meritorious service. I said the last assertion afforded matter for enquiry, but that I must have the orders of surrender in the first place and I added that the Peshwa would not in all probability be much pleased at one of his own servants who consented to hold part of His Highness's dominions of a foreign prince who had no title to them.

10. Next day I examined Appa Desai's claim to the Jagir and enquired into the custom which his Vakeel had alleged. I found that the grant had been extorted from the Raja after Appa Desai was in possession of the Jagir and that he had determined to hold it on condition of service on purpose to defeat any claim which the Peshwa might prefer to it. I also found the custom had been greatly misrepresented and that it only referred to Jagirs stipulated for in treaties like the pensions which the British Government formerly

agreed to pay to Sindia's Ministers. The Vakeel came in the evening but as he did not bring the orders of surrender I refused to enter on business with him. I however promised to take him to the Minister on the next evening after he had delivered the orders and I appointed a meeting with the Minister for that purpose.

11. The vakeel did not make his appearance next day. I however went to the Minister and consulted with him on Appa Desai's affairs, he answered the claims brought forward by that Chief on the lands demanded by the Government and he utterly denied all the Vakeel's assertions respecting the Jagir, it was settled that some of the Ministers best acquainted with the subject, should be sent to the Residency on the next day to meet Appa Desai's Vakeel and to answer his objections to the claims of the Government.

12. On the next day the Ministers came and soon after Appa Desai's Vakeel made his appearance. I carried him into a separate room with the two principal ministers and told him that they were come to examine his claims but that he must previously deliver the orders of surrender which I had required. The Vakeel affected to have something important to communicate which could not be mentioned in the presence of the ministers and pressed me to finish the examination before I entered on the subject of the orders. I endeavoured to remove his reserve by telling him that I was acting in the present case on the Peshwa's part and that he could have nothing to say which ought to be concealed from His Highness's Ministers; but he continued obstinate and left the room saying he would speak to me after I had done with the Ministers. When he was gone the Ministers expressed their opinion that his only object was to gain time and if possible to postpone the question about the orders, to the examination of Appa Desai's claims. They then withdrew of their own accord and when the Vakeel returned he began a discourse about his master's claim to the Jagir which might have been held without the least impropriety in the presence of the Ministers. I at length told him that I had more than once heard all his arguments and had twice desired him to bring me the orders of surrender and that he must not expect that I would submit any longer to his trifling. He then produced what he called an order of surrender which stated, that Appa Desai possessed certain lands yielding 25,000 rupees annual revenue by enaum (a species of grant which the Government is not entitled to resume) that the British Government had now determined to sequestrate them with a view to examining whether the said Enaum lands should not be resumed by the Peshwa's Government; and that the person to whom the order was addressed was therefore to make them over to the Peshwa's officers; I objected to this paper on the ground not only of its misrepresenting the conduct of the British Government but of containing so false a description of the lands that the person in charge of them would not be justified in giving them up on such authority; I then remonstrated on the spirit of evasion in which Appa Desai's present measures were adopted; assured the Vakeel

that it would not be permitted, reminded him of the vicinity of the British troops to his, both here and at Neepaunee, adverted to the numerous accidents which might bring on hostilities even with out Appa Desai's intending it and told him it was his master's interest to avoid every proceeding which had the least tendency to keeping things in a situation so dangerous to himself.

13. On the 13th the Vakeel brought the order of surrender made out in an unobjectionable form, and yesterday the Minister again came to the Residency to enquire into his claims, a great deal of discussion took place but as nothing final can be accomplished until I have had another meeting with the Minister I shall not trouble your Lordship at present with an account which I shall soon be obliged to repeat. The meeting was to have taken place today but was prevented by the indisposition of the Minister who has had an attack of fever

14. I hope your Lordship will approve the steps I have taken to enforce the demands of the Peshwa and the Rajah of Kolhapore on Appa Desai. It appeared to me that the advance of a body of troops to a position that commanded his own Camp would have as much effect as an attack on his Jagir by Lieutenant Colonel Dowse and that it was in all respects a more desirable course to pursue. Without one or other of those operations I am persuaded no real progress could have been made in the adjustment which has so long been delayed. I have been careful ever since I received the full powers from the Peshwa, to consult the Minister on all subjects and to treat him with marked attention, on his part I have met with every appearance of cordiality

Letter No. 34.—The letter discusses the claims of the Peshwa, the Raja of Kolhapur and Appa Desai to the cession of certain territories specially with reference to Chickori, Manowly, Raibag and Kagal. The point arose as a result of the arbitration undertaken by Elphinstone. Elphinstone's conclusions are set out in the last paragraph of this letter

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—THE RT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, the 7th September 1813.

Soon after the date of my letter of the 15th of July, I paid the visit to the Minister which was alluded to in that dispatch.

2. The proposed enquiry was however rendered unnecessary by an arrangement which had taken place between the Minister and Appa Desai. I had sent the Vakeel of the latter Chief to the Minister, to discuss his master's claims on the places demanded by

the Peshwa previously to my visit, and the Minister had brought forward such proofs of the justice of the Peshwa's title, that the Vakeel was obliged to admit it. I had therefore only to hear an acknowledgment on the Vakeel's part that his master had no claim to any of the places for which he had given me orders of surrender. He however added an expression of hope that the Peshwa would grant his master such of those places as should appear to belong to His Highness.

3. In consequence of this admission, I proceeded to distribute the orders of surrender according to the apparent circumstances of the places to which they applied. The Peshwa's right to the following places not being disputed by the Raja, I gave the orders of surrender to the Minister:—

	Rs.
The places in Manowly beyond the watree valued at	45,967
The district of Yekoondé valued at	32,997
The fort of Wullubghur and its dependencies valued at ..	18,041
The village of Inglee valued at	9,057
The village of Siddapoor valued at	1,500
The village of Suptsagar valued at	4,000
Total ..	<u>1,11,562</u>

4. Most of the places belonging to the Raja, which had not been already obtained from Appa Desai were claimed by the Peshwa. I however gave His Highness's Vakeel orders of surrender for Hoopree, Raindaul, Sirudwaur, Soolkoor and Tanklee and for the Jagir lands mentioned in my last, which though only rated by Appa Desai at 25,000 Rupees, the Raja considers to be worth 40,000 and which he is very anxious to resume. Some of these lands are claimed by the Peshwa as being in Chickory but as Appa Desai had held them of the Raja, I thought they ought to remain in the hands of that prince until the investigation concerning them should be concluded. I apprized the Kolhapore Vakeels of the Peshwa's claims to those lands, and acquainted them that the question regarding the permanent possession of them was still undecided.

5. There were five other orders for places still in dispute between the Rajah and the Peshwa which I retained in my own hands, and one for a fort belonging to Rastia which the Minister begged might not be given to him during the Peshwa's present displeasure against him; and which I therefore deposited with the Peshwa's Government. I have since heard of the peaceable surrender of all the places above alluded to. In the meantime I proceeded to investigate as many more of the Rajah's claims as it was in my power and early ascertained that there were still upwards of fifty villages in possession of Appa Desai which were neither included in the Peshwa's list of the Pergunnah of Chickoree nor taken within the term fixed by the Treaty. Many communications

took place regarding these villages with the Minister. A certain number of them have been proved to belong to the Peshwa and a more considerable number to the Rajah while some have been reserved for further investigation. Others appeared to be already in possession of persons who held authentic grants for them or were now given up to claimants of that description, and it only remained to determine whether they were held of the Peshwa or the Rajah of Kolhapore. This has been suspended until the Sunnuds can be produced and examined. Nine of the villages which have been renounced by the Minister have nevertheless been allowed to remain in his hands under the supposition that they may belong to Chickoree, of the villages of which District he has not yet been able to furnish a complete list.

6. After the demur which was made by the Peshwa's Minister to my decision on the subject of the Jagir of Hindu Rao in Caugul, and the mention which I made of the subject to the Peshwa, I allowed it to lie over till I should be able to learn your Lordship's commands regarding it, on the receipt of Mr Adam's letter, dated the 30th July, I conceived my proceeding in that affair to be honoured with your Lordship's approbation and I acquainted the Minister with the cause of my silence and with your Lordship's final decision. The Minister soon consented to the arrangement which will be effected by his announcing to Hindu Rao that he is not to consider himself as a subject of the Peshwa's. Hindu Rao is the son of the notorious Serji Rao Ghatkey. His lands which take up the whole district of Caugul except the small portion included in Chickoree, were occupied by Appa Desai about 2 years ago and he was allowed to retain them on condition of his joining the Peshwa's standard to which he readily agreed.

7. The greater part of the Prisoners taken by Appa Desai in his war with Kolhapore, have been released, but some still remain in Appa Desai's hands. The principal of these is Dutba Caunwailkar a relation of the Rajah's who was taken in an attempt to surprize a fort of the Peshwa's and who is alleged by Appa Desai to be a mere freebooter while he is avowed by the Kolhapore Vakeels to be an officer of their Government. The Minister proposed that this person should be made over to the Peshwa's Government and engaged to release him in case he proved to be in the Kolhapore service. Considerable opposition was made to this arrangement by Appa Desai but he has at last given an order for the delivering him up to the Peshwa's officers. The detention of the next of these persons, Narhar Bapuji, is connected with a complicated pecuniary transaction, the merits of which cannot at present be ascertained. An arrangement has however been made which will render the further confinement of Narhar Bapuji unnecessary.

8. Much greater difficulty has arisen regarding the release of the family of the Desai of Narlee in whose affairs the Kolhapore Government takes a great interest although their dependance on that Government remains doubtful as their lands are

alleged by the Peshwa's Government to be included in the district of Chickoree. The Desai of Nairlee was killed together with two hundred of his followers in an attempt to surprise the fort of Neepaunee and to cut off the Surlashkar, the whole of the survivors of his family, including many women and children were immediately thrown into confinement by that Chieftain and although the Peshwa's Minister readily agreed that they should be released, and gave orders for their being brought to Poona for that purpose, yet Appa Desai has hitherto objected to comply with these directions: some reasonable apprehensions which he entertained for his own safety from the revenge of that family, have however been obviated and no pretext is left for his disobeying the Peshwa's orders.

and by examining the Zamindars of the districts. The first plan was dropt on account of the absolute inconsistency of the two accounts, arising from the different revenue divisions adopted by the two Governments, that of Kolhapore still keeping up the ancient Pergunnah of Hookaree, of which the Taluk of Chickoree forms but a small part, and the other making use of the more recent division of Chickoree, which includes the greater part if not the whole of the Pergunnah above mentioned. The second was objected to by the Kolhapore Vakeels on the ground that the evidence of the Zamindars as to the usual acceptation of the term Chickoree, would be influenced by the Peshwa's authority while it was obvious that no object would be attained by examining their records as those seem certainly to proceed on the ancient system and to refer entirely to the Pergunnah of Hookaree.

13 No other plan remained after the failure of those above mentioned, but that of adopting the limits which were proved by the records of one or other of the parties, and the only question was to which the preference ought to be given. The Kolhapore Vakeels at first made it appear that this was due to their records, for though they formerly denied that any transfer of territory had taken place in consequence of the Treaty by which the Rajah ceded, Chickoree under that name to the Peshwa, yet they now produced several papers tending to prove that the district had actually been made over at that time by the Rajah and received by the Peshwa and that the territory transferred was that which was termed Chickoree in the Kolhapore records and not the more extensive district included under that name by the Peshwa. The first of those papers was an order from the Rajah to one of his officers to surrender the district of Chickoree, according to a particular list, to the Peshwa, the next paper was the list, which purported to have been drawn out at the desire of Mahadajee Sindhia who at that time commanded the Peshwa's troops near Kolhapore and which stated Chickoree to consist of 21 Villages, the number which it appears is that to which in strictness the pergunna is confined in the Rajah's records. This argument was however soon upset. The Peshwa's ministers denied that ever Sindhia had received the paper in question insisted on the improbability of his consenting to accept of 21 villages as the whole contents of a district which when held by his own Government (five years before) had been reckoned to include 361 villages, and called for proof of Sindhia having seen the papers or agreed to the account which they contained of the district of Chickoree. This proof the Kolhapore Vakeels were unable to produce, but they argued that even if the Peshwa's Government never had recognized their account of the limits of Chickoree, that account ought still to be considered as the true one being conformable to the ancient division of the country which has been observed by all Governments since the time of the Audil Shahs. This argument cannot however be maintained for, although the Kolhapore account of Chickoree is the most ancient and though it be still kept up in revenue papers, yet it certainly has

long been disused in ordinary language and even in the language of treaties. The Rajah's Vakeels have themselves admitted that for the last forty years the Peshwa's usurpations (as they term them) on the Kolhapore frontier have been generally called Chickoree, by which name they acknowledge that the Peshwa almost invariably termed them. The Rajah himself has more than once applied the name of Chickoree in its extensive sense while on the other hand the Peshwa never appears to have used the term in the limited sense applied to it by the Rajah.

14. It seems therefore pretty certain that when the Rajah was required to sign the late Treaty ceding Chickoree to the Peshwa, he could not have imagined the demand to be limited to 21 villages even if he merely considered the sense usually attached to the word Chickoree; and if he considered that the treaty was intended to be favourable to the Peshwa and not to bind His Highness to any cession it is impossible that he should have understood it in that sense. It surely was much more natural that he should have supposed that he was required to renounce the country which he had taken from the Peshwa's officer Parashram Bhow, which has occasioned the frequent wars that have occurred, since that capture.

15. Those lands consisted of a large part of the pergunna Hookairee and smaller portions of the pergunnas of Caugul and Ryebaugh and it can easily be proved that the same were the component parts of the district to which the Rajah has applied the name of Chickoree.

16. The first occasion on which the Rajah uses the term, is in the 5th article of the Treaty of 1178 Arabic, by which he cedes Chickori Manowlee, Laut and Rangolee to the Peshwa. In the Arabic year 1181 a treaty was made by which those cessions were restored to the Raja and they are there described (in Article 1st) by the name of Hookairi, Manowlee, Caugul, and Ryebaugh, together with Cutcole and the independent villages. The places last named are therefore coextensive with Chickoree, Manowlee, Laut and Rangolee, but Manowli is mentioned in both of these articles and Cutcole is known to be a dependency on Manowlee. The term "independent villages" of the one Treaty may be applied to the Laut and Rangolee of the other, but cannot be meant to express the districts of Hookairee, Raybaugh and Caugul. Those Districts therefore must be included under the remaining term Chickoree. It may be objected that the Peshwa made further acquisitions subsequent to the conclusion of the first treaty and that these as well as the regular cessions, are included in the terms made use of in the second treaty, but this is disproved by the terms of the latter which contains a separate stipulation in Article 8th for the restoration of all places conquered in the interval between the dates of the two Treaties. The first article of the Treaty of 1181 which I have been explaining was drawn by the Raja. The Peshwa's ratification of it confirms the above interpretation; it is thus worded, "The

Raja formerly gave sunnuds for the Hookairi and Manowlee; these shall now be returned. Hookairee, Manowlee, Caugul and Ryebaugh are therefore returned accordingly." The next occasion on which the word Chickoree was used in a treaty was that of the Treaty which was dictated by the Rajah to the present Peshwa and which was designed to restore all the country which had been occupied by Parashram Bhow. The Raja there confines his demands to Chickoree, Manowlee, the independent villages and the lands of Enaumdars and Serinjamies. All the country which was held by Parashram Bhow and which cannot be included in Manowlee or in the lands of Enaumdars and Serinjamies, must therefore belong to Chickoree, and that country will be found to contain the portions of Hookairee, Ryebaugh and Caugul which have already been alluded to.

17. The late Rajah of Kolhapore always used the word Chickoree in the above sense in the letters which he wrote to me about the time of the conclusion of the last Treaty and particularly in the Draft of a Treaty which he sent to me immediately before the conclusion of the negotiations. It is to be remembered that the conquest which Appa Desai had made and which it was the Rajah's object to have restored, consisted of all the lands held by the Peshwa in Parashram Bhow's time together with part of the district of Nool and many places in Ryebaugh which were never possessed by His Highness. Accordingly the Rajah after stating that the British Government had engaged that the Talooks of the Sirkar should be restored according to strict justice and impartiality goes on as follows. "Therefore send orders immediately for the surrender of the following Talooks, Chickoree, Manowlee, Ryebaugh, the lands in the district of Nool, etc., together with Neepaunce. It is evident that this is meant to include all that the Peshwa possessed in Parashram Bhow's time at least, and as His Highness had at that time no lands in Nool and only 8 villages in Ryebaugh, the rest of his possessions are included under Chickoree and Manowlee. It may be objected to all these arguments that the natives are always inaccurate in their treaties and that the Raja ought not to be kept with too much strictness to the terms which he has used in the above articles. It must be confessed the articles afford abundant examples of incorrect expression (as will appear hereafter) but supposing that a latitude is to be allowed in interpreting Maratha treaties, the Peshwa is entitled to the benefit of it as well as the Raja; and therefore granting that Chickoree in strictness only contains 20 villages, it is unreasonable to limit His Highness to the exact letter of his demand, when it is quite obvious that (however inadequate the expression may be) the intention of the Treaty was to secure all the territory in dispute to him.

18. It seems therefore to be established that the Chickoree ceded by the Treaty is the same which was held by Parashram Bhow; which was taken from him by the Raja in 1796 and which was the occasion of the late wars between him and the Peshwa.

But there is still some difficulty in fixing with accuracy the limits of the District possessed by Parashram Bhow, for that officer appears to have held many places of the Rajah by various tenures which he never reckoned in Chickoree or consider as belonging to the Peshwa and on the other hand, he included the whole Pergunnah of Hookairee in Chickori which was thus made to comprehend a great many villages of which neither Parashram nor the Peshwa ever had possession. The Peshwa now claims the whole of these villages alleging that they are included in Chickoree and ought to be given up to him, as the whole of that district has been ceded to him without reference to former possession. He supports this demand by alleging that Chickoree and Hookairee are synonymous and it is certain that the original pretensions of his state were to Hookairee and that they were not limited to Chickori till the conclusion of the Treaty of 1178 Arabic.

19. If the Peshwa's Ministers can prove Hookairee and Chickoree to be synonymous, they are of course entitled to the whole of Hookairee though they must resign the portions of Ryebaugh and Caugul which I have supposed to form part of Chickoree, but they have brought no proof of the fact as yet and I think it very improbable they ever will. If they fail in establishing this fact they can found nothing on Parashram's statement since the Rajah has never admitted that his portion of Hookairee was included in Chickoree and though Parashram Bhow might give that name or any other name to his own district, he could have no right to extend his new appellations to the Raja's possessions. The Peshwa might strengthen his claim by the expressions of the treaties of 1178 and 1181 (already quoted) in which Chickoree is made to comprehend the whole of Hookairee, this argument proves too much since the same interpretation would include the whole of Ryebaugh and Caugul in Chickoree, which even the Peshwa has never pretended to have been the case. It seems therefore that the Peshwa's present claim only extends in justice to that part of Parashram Bhow's actual possessions which was included by him under the name of Chickoree.

20. A decision on this principle would leave about 270 villages to the Peshwa and would restore about 90 to the Raja. I have already acquainted the Kolhapore Vakeels that this principle appeared to me to be the one on which the decision would ultimately be passed and after defending their own opinion of the extent of Chickoree for some time they acquiesced in its justice. I shall shortly give a similar intimation to the Peshwa's Ministers and if he also should acquiesce in it, I shall proceed to act on the principle and deliver over the Rajah's share to him by which I shall be able to render Colonel Dowse's force disposable without further delay, but if the decision I propose should be obstinately disputed by either party, I shall suspend my proceedings till I can be honoured with your Lordships orders on the subjects referred to in this dispatch.

Letter No. 35.—The letter conveys the opinion of the Governor General in regard to the condition on the basis of which an accommodation can be arranged with the Ranees of Sawantwarl.

FROM—J. ADAM, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

TO—THE HON'BLE M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA

Fort William, 24th September 1813.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 24th ultimo relative to the measures which it may be proper to pursue in Sawantwaree in the approaching season and to communicate to you the following observations and instructions of the Governor General in Council.

2. His Lordship in Council approves of your having submitted to him the result of your own reflections on the subject derived from an intimate knowledge of the affairs and interests of that state, which has enabled His Lordship in Council to prescribe with more precision than might otherwise have been practicable without further communication, the conditions on which he is willing to conclude an accommodation with the Government of Sawantwarree.

3. It is, as you are already apprized, the wish of His Lordship in Council to exact nothing from that state beyond what the security of our ally the Rajah of Kolhapore, the prevention of the revival of piracy and the consolidation of our territory around Malwan combined with some security for the peaceable conduct of the Ranees, appear to require. His Lordship in Council entirely concurs with you in opinion that the conditions which may be demanded from the Rani should be finally insisted on without relaxation and it is on that account as well as on others highly desirable that they should be framed in a spirit of the utmost moderation. At the same time the British Government is entitled to expect that all the questions in dispute should be adjusted on a basis of permanency and it will not be prudent to leave any opening for future claims and discussions.

4. The objects above stated will be attained in the utmost practicable degree by a Treaty framed on the basis of the first six Articles of Lieut. Colonel Dowse's Draft No. 1, with the exception of the 3rd Article which is not applicable to the present state of affairs.

5. Under such an arrangement all claims on the Rajah of Kolhapore would be barred in perpetuity our occupation of Vingorla and the penalty imposed by the terms of the treaty of Madoor would effectually prevent the revival of piracy, while the proposed exchanges of territory would reduce our possessions depending on Malwan to a compact form and put an end to the evils of a participation of districts in that quarter.

6. These terms are greatly more advantageous to the Rani than she can fairly expect and if she is reasonable enough to consent to them it may be hoped that she will perceive the advantage of maintaining them and not attempt to disturb the settlement.

7. It is however by no means improbable that she may reject them as she has already done terms not less advantageous. In that event His Lordship in Council is disposed to think that the operations of our troops should be confined to the occupation of that territory which we desire to obtain by amicable negotiation and to any measures which may appear to be necessary for their security or for the security of the Rajah of Kolhapore's possessions against future aggressions. What these specific measures should be His Lordship in Council is not prepared to state since the question turns upon local considerations on which His Lordship in Council has not the means of forming a competent judgment. Your knowledge of the subject aided by the information which you will obtain from Lieutenant Colonel Dowse and the authorities at Malwaun will enable you to decide on these points if time shall not admit of a reference to Government.

8. His Lordship in Council is not aware that the possession of any other post than Vingorla on the Sea Coast is necessary for the suppression of piracy, and would therefore not feel inclined to occupy the other forts unless it might be found expedient as a means of bringing the Rani to reason.

9. His Lordship in Council is entirely satisfied that no views of conquering the country for the British Government should be entertained. It is evident from all the information which has been received that it is not worth the trouble of the conquest and the risk of the political embarrassments which the possession of it might create. If the Rani should fly from Waree and abandon the administration His Lordship in Council does not perceive any objection to recognising the Government which may replace her authority but it will not be expedient to engage in its support or to conclude any treaty with it unless it shall appear likely to maintain itself. In the distracted state in which Sawantwarree is represented to be in the information transmitted by Major Schuyler the flight of the Rani from the capital might not improbably terminate in the overthrow of her power.

10. Having thus stated the view which the Governor General in Council takes of this affair I am directed to desire that you will proceed to carry into execution the measures of which the outline is stated above in concert with the envoy at Goa to whom you will be pleased to communicate your sentiments on the subject.

11. You will of course also correspond with the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council of Bombay on this subject who will be prepared to co-operate in the execution of the measures now ordered.

12. A copy of this dispatch will be transmitted to the Government of Bombay and to the Envoy.

Letter No. 36.—The letter refers to the completion of the settlement between the Peshwa and Appa Desai effected by the Resident by a threat of employing force against the latter. The force that had been kept ready is now ordered back to their stations.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA,

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 7th October 1813.

I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I have received the orders of surrender mentioned in my last dispatch from Appa Desai and that a portion of that Chief's force has marched to the frontier according to the plan suggested by the Minister.

2. After ascertaining that the Peshwa had no further demands on Appa Desai, I instructed Colonel Cooke to withdraw the troops which had been placed around his camp. The 1st Battalion, 3rd Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Roome, and the 2nd Battalion, 4th Regiment commanded by Major Fallor, will accordingly commence their march for Seroor tomorrow under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Roome; and the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Regiment Commanded by Major Imlach and the 1st Battalion, 9th Regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Boye, will return into cantonments at this place.

3. I cannot omit this opportunity of bringing to your Lordship's notice the regularity and good conduct of the troops on this occasion. The necessity of investigation previously to enforcing many of the demands on Appa Desai, the subterfuges to which that Chief had recourse and the delays so often occasioned by the Peshwa's Government rendered it necessary to retain the troops for a very long period in a position which was only calculated for a particular emergency and to keep them in a standing camp for the greater part of a remarkably severe monsoon. Notwithstanding the nearness of the Camp to that of Appa Desai and the peculiar relation in which that Chief was placed towards the troops, no instance of irritation or disorder took place during the whole period alluded to, a proof of good discipline which I trust your Lordship will think creditable to Colonel Cooke and to the Officers and men under his command.

Letter No. 37.—The letter conveys the Governor General's approbation of the Resident's way of arriving at a settlement with the Peshwa's Ministers, his concurrence with the Resident's views that the Peshwa cannot be regarded as sovereign over Sawantwari and his reluctance to intervene in the matter of succession of the Angria family.

FROM—J. ADAM, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

TO—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fort William, the 22nd October 1813.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 54, dated the 25th ultimo, reporting the progress of the discussions with the Peshwa's Ministers, relative to the limits of Chickory and adverting to several other questions which have been brought forward by the Ministers in conference with yourself and Mr. Close.

2. The Governor General in Council observes with great satisfaction your expectation of a speedy termination of the affairs of Chickory by the transfer to the Rajah of Kolhapore of the villages to which his title has been ascertained and of the early settlement of the several points remaining to be adjusted with Appa Desai.

3. The tenor of your discourse to the Minister on the occasion of his renewal of the pretensions of the Peshwa to the Sovereignty of Sawantwarree is entirely approved by the Governor General in Council, who is satisfied from the information submitted in your former dispatches that the claim is untenable. It is evident indeed from the manner in which the Minister was obliged to shift his ground when pressed by you in the discussion reported in your dispatch now replied to, that he cannot maintain His Highness's pretensions on any just or even plausible foundation.

4. The Governor General in Council feels considerable difficulty in consenting to the proposition of the Peshwa's ministers for the settlement of his affairs in Hindustan even in the less objectionable mode now proposed. The apparent impracticability of effecting that purpose without bringing on disputes and altercations with the Governments of Sindhia and Holkar, the unreasonable views which the Peshwa undoubtedly entertains on this subject and the intricate and boundless investigation to which it would lead, combined with the objections formerly stated and which although in some degree lessened are not removed to create a desire on the part of the Government to waive the discussion of the question. It would at all events require more.....and deliberate consideration than His Excellency is at present able to give it before any resolution to accede to the proposition of the Peshwa's Government can be taken.

5. His Lordship in Council also entertains considerable doubts whether this Government is bound by the Treaty of Bassein to guarantee to the Peshwa the recovery of Districts that had been

completely lost to him long before the conclusion of that treaty. It might be useful however to ascertain the particular districts in Hindustan to which the Peshwa lays claim. But in the enquiries which you may make on that subject care should be taken not to indicate an absolute intention on the part of Government to concur in His Highness's views with regard to the recovery of them.

6. The manner in which Mr. Close received and replied to the Minister's communication on this subject is considered by His Excellency in Council to have been extremely judicious.

7. The Governor General in Council directs me to express his approbation of your reply to the application from the Ministers of the late Baburao Angria for the interference of the British Government in the regulation of the succession to the Chiefship of Kolabba. His Excellency in Council is desirous of abstaining from any such interference, unless the dissensions which may arise in the petty state of Kolabba shall have a tendency to disturb the tranquillity of the British possessions under the Presidency of Bombay.

8. I shall have the honour of addressing a separate letter to you on the subject of the arbitration of the claims of His Highness the Peshwa on the Nizam.

Letter No. 38.—The letter conveys the suggestions of the Governor General in regard to the claims of the Rani of Sawantwari to certain territories, and the manner of offering British arbitration in that matter.

FROM—J. ADAM, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

TO—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fort William, the 29th October 1813.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant enclosing the copy of a memorandum by Lieutenant Col. Dowse reporting the mode of proceeding in which he considers to be most proper to be adopted towards Sawantwari.

2. The Governor General in Council has perused that document with the attention which is due to the sentiments of an officer of Lieutenant Col. Dowse's approved zeal, judgment and ability on a subject on which he possesses considerable local knowledge.

3. The result of His Excellency in Council's consideration of Lieutenant Colonel Dowse's paper combined with the view of the subject already submitted to Government by Major Schuyler and yourself, has been confirmed in His Excellency's judgment the expediency generally of the course of proceeding prescribed by the instructions addressed to you on the 24th ultimo.

4. There are two points adverted to, however in Lieutenant Col. Dowse's memorandum which have suggested to the Governor General in Council some considerations which I am desired to state,

to you not in the form of positive instructions for your guidance but as suggestions to be acted on if it shall appear to you that they will contribute to facilitate a pacific accomplishment of our views with relation to Sawantwari.

5. These points are—1st, the conviction which the Rani Durga Bai is stated to entertain that the claim of the state of Sawantwari to Bharatgarh and its dependancies is founded in justice and that the British Government believes it to be so, and her consequent reluctance to abandon it; 2nd, the reference to Lieut. Col. Smith's original recommendation that the British Government should obtain the whole of the district of Masina either by exchange or purchase and the further advantage pointed out by Lieutenant Colonel Dowse as resulting from this arrangement by interposing a barrier between the Kolhapore and Sawantwari territory.

6. Now it has occurred to the Governor General in Council that although the Rani might refuse to accede to conditions which would at once deprive her of all hope of receiving for Sawantwari a possession which she appears to value so highly, she might nevertheless rather engage in a hopeless war with the British Government than agree to submit her claim to our arbitration. His Excellency is sensible of the objection to reviewing a proposition which the Rani has already rejected and it is only thrown out as a positive mode of avoiding hostilities with the Rani by offering an inducement to her to accept our terms. It is not in contemplation to extend the proffer of our arbitration to any other objects than the fort of Bharatgarh and its dependant territory.

7. Another mode of satisfying the Rani would be to obtain possession for ourselves of Bharatgarh and its dependencies in exchange for our share of the participated districts of Paut and Havelly. We might then cede Bharatgarh and its dependencies to the Rani in exchange for the Sawantwari share of Varada and Maloondy, which are necessary for the consolidation of our territory around Malwaun.

8. This appropriation of the Kolhapore share of Masura, if it shall be placed at our disposal, would it is true defeat the purpose for which that acquisition is recommended by Lieutenant Col. Dowse, and would be a considerable sacrifice on our part, but like the proposed arbitration it is communicated to you as it has occurred to Government, merely as a point which may be deserving of attention, in considering the details of an arrangement to be concluded with the Government of Sawantwari of a nature calculated to preclude the necessity of coercive measures.

9. Recurring to your dispatch of the 24th of August the Governor General in Council observes that you reckon the value of Bharatgarh and Mersinghar among the sacrifices to be made by the Rani on the scheme of exchange there suggested, and admitting the propriety of giving her credit for that sum as a real loss, in her estimation, though not in point of fact, the balance against her

appears to be Rs. 8,108 although the terms which we are disposed to grant to the Rani are so far beyond her just and reasonable expectations yet His Excellency in Council would not be indisposed to make her compensation for the pecuniary loss which under the proposed plan of exchanges would fall on her, and if you are of opinion that such a concession would be desirable, you are requested to take into consideration the best means of effecting the object and to shake the terms to be offered to the Rani accordingly.

10 The entire restitution of Vingorla is suggested by Lieut. Col. Dowse under a persuasion that the possession of that place is not essential to the suppression of piracy. Under the decided opinion however which has been delivered by the Government of Bombay regarding the importance of Vingorla, and even the expediency of extending our authority on the coast, the Governor General in Council cannot until that question shall have undergone further deliberation in communication with that Government, sanction the restitution of the post it has been determined to establish at Vingorla.

11 On this point however some change may be produced in the opinion of the Governor in Council of Bombay by a reconsideration of that question, with reference to Lieutenant Col. Dowse's sentiments and it is desirable that you should correspond with the Governor in Council on the subject. If the result of that correspondence shall be an opinion that the retention of the original cession at Vingorla is an object of little or no consideration as a means of checking piracy, the Governor General in Council will approve of an arrangement which shall render the retrocession of that post to Sawantwari, a part of the proposed compensation to that state.

12. You will be pleased to take into your consideration the suggestions contained in this dispatch and apply them to the actual and contingent state of affairs in Sawantwari, in such manner as shall appear to your judgment to be most conducive to the public interests.

13 A copy of these instructions will be transmitted to the Government of Bombay and to the Envoy at Goa with which authorities you will of course correspond on the subject of them.

Letter No 39.—The letter explains the motives of the Governor General for not interfering in the matter of succession of Angria family after the death of Baboo Rao, and requires the Resident to apprise the Peshwa about it.

FROM—J ADAM, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

TO—THE HON'BLE M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fort William, 12th November 1813.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ultimo communicating a message which you have received from His Highness the Peshwa relative to the appointment of a

successor to Baboo Rao Angrea, the late Chief of Kolaba, and reporting some particulars of the state of the succession as represented by the Vakeel of Baboo Rao.

2. It would be the inclination of the Governor General in Council in conformity with the general principles of policy which influence the British Government in abstaining from any interference in the domestic affairs of the Marhatta Chiefs to decline offering his advice to the Peshwa relative to the line to be pursued by His Highness in the present case. There are however some peculiar circumstances connected with the succession to the petty state of Kolaba which in the judgment of this Government from such powerful reasons for desiring that the established order of succession should be maintained as to induce His Excellency in Council to avail himself of the spontaneous application of the Peshwa for our advice, to recommend to His Highness the adoption of the only course of proceeding which appears likely to secure the tranquil settlement of the Government of Kolaba, and the satisfaction of the Chiefs who are interested in the affairs of the family of Angrea.

3. I proceed to communicate to you the view which the Governor General in Council has taken of this question and the instructions of His Excellency in Council founded on it.

4. It may be proper in the first instance to state some observations relative to the plan of succession proposed by the Peshwa whose declaration in favour of the descendants of Raghojee, the illegitimate son of Canoojee, is in the judgment of His Excellency in Council unsupported by any acknowledged rules of succession.

5. Yasoojee appears to have succeeded to the principality by right after the death of the two legitimate sons of Kanojee without issue, and the succession under these circumstances should according to the principles of justice and the established practice of Indian States run in his lineal descendants.

6. The exclusion of the family of Ragoojee from the power obtained by the atrocious act which accompanied his usurpation of the principality of Kolaba and the restoration of the branch of Yasoojee appears from all the facts within the knowledge of this Government to have been acts of substantial justice, although they were effected by means of the illegal and unconstitutional authority exercised at the time by Dowlat Rao Sindhia over the Councils and actions of the Peshwa.

7. The acquisition of the Government by Ragojee was an event of too recent occurrence to give to his family the prescriptive right which successful usurpation acquires by time.

8. The elevation of Baboo Rao to the prejudice of his elder brother may have been founded on considerations which will divest it of the character of injustice which it at present bears, but under any view of this branch of the question the succession of Sambhaji,

the son of Baboo Rao's elder brother (Baboorao himself having as is understood died without issue) will both fulfil the ends of justice, and as being the arrangement desired by the family of Baboo Rao and by Dowlat Rao Sindhia whose near connection makes him take a direct personal interest in the affairs of Kolaba, conduce more than any other settlement to the tranquillity of that petty state.

9. Our conviction of the justice of Sambhaje's claim to the succession would form no good guard for the exercise of interference on the part of the British Government, because our persuasion on that head being at absolute variance with the opinion possessed by the Peshwa whose view of the recognized principles on which that justice (entirely conventional) must rest among the Marhattas, we cannot but feel the point to be still doubtful. When, however, we can support our own notions of the justice of the case by a consideration of clear expediency, our procedure is decided for us.

10. You are apprized by Mr Strachey's dispatch of the 20th October that Sambhaje was about to commence his march from Sindhia's Camp to succeed to the estates of the late Baboo Rao. I fancy if opposition should be offered to his succession it is probable that the British Government will receive an application from Sindhia on the subject, and it is not easy to discern the grounds on which we can refuse to comply with such an application, under the circumstance of the Peshwa having actually invited us to afford him our advice. Any active proceeding on our part or that of His Highness the Peshwa in order to place in the Chiefship of Colaba the descendants of a person who deposed and treated with such cruelty the grand father of Dowlat Rao Sindhia must necessarily give a high degree of disgust to that prince and would probably estrange him from the British Government and produce dissension between him and the Peshwa which cannot fail to produce considerable embarrassment and will probably demand the interposition of the British Government.

11. On these combined grounds it appears to the Governor General in Council that the British Government possess powerful motives for endeavouring to obtain the Peshwa's consent to the tranquil establishment of Sambhaji Angrea in the possessions of his uncle, and His Excellency in Council authorizes you to convey a representation to His Highness to the effect of the foregoing observations and to endeavour to prevail on him to acknowledge as the Chief of Kolaba the individual whose nomination is desired by the family and whose claim from descent appears to be superior to that of any competitor. Although His Excellency in Council is desirous that you should urge the Peshwa as strongly as possible to adopt this advice it is by no means the wish of Government to require him to do so, or to interpose the power of the British Government for the purpose of guaranteeing the succession to the family of Baboo Rao.

12. If your efforts should not succeed it will be necessary to secure the regular payment by the actual Government of Kolaba of the stipend to Morari Rao residing at Bombay, whose maintenance will otherwise become a burthen on the Hon'ble Company.

13. It is proper to observe, referring to a remark in the 5th paragraph of your letter, that the interference of the British Government in favour of Baboo Rao Angrea to which you have adverted was limited to the counteraction of the schemes of Morari Rao against Colaba while that person was residing under the protection of the British Government, and that it was adopted principally with a view to secure the tranquillity of that settlement against the interruption to which it was exposed by the designs and preparations of Morari Rao.

14. A copy of this letter will be transmitted to the Resident at the Court of Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

Letter No. 40.—The enclosure to this letter which is a copy of the dispatch from Elphinstone to the Governor-General contains information on important affairs. Elphinstone refers to the negotiations between the Agents of the Gaikwar and the Peshwa, to the claims of Holkar to certain territories in the possession of the Nizam, to the release of Karim Khan, the Pindari leader, and many other affairs of importance.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, 8th April 1814.

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of my address No. 4 of the 24th ultimo, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General.

MY LORD,

I was about to report to your Excellency on the current affairs of this place, when I had the honour to receive your instructions conveyed in Mr. Adam's dispatch, dated the 26th ultimo. I shall therefore proceed with that report before I refer to the subjects connected with your commands.

Gangadhar Shastry (the minister from His Highness the Gaikwar) arrived here some time since, but the Paishwa's minister was prevented receiving him by indisposition, and His Highness himself was absent on a pilgrimage. As soon as the minister was

recovered a meeting took place, at which I was present in consequence of the Shastry's earnest request. I passed(?) to the satisfaction of both parties, and they immediately after opened the business of the negotiation.

I have had constant intercourse with the Shastry since the day of his arrival and have more than once discussed with him the plans he wished to pursue. He early declared that no adjustment of the disputes between the Governments could be brought about without our interposition, unless he were to bribe the Paishwa's ministers and favourites a course which he was not disposed to adopt even if it were in his power. That he therefore considered it as a thing settled that the disputes would ultimately be referred to British Government but that he nevertheless thought it requisite that the Gaikwar should make such proposals to Paishwa as might give him the choice of adjusting matters without a reference to arbitration. He would, therefore, he said, communicate with the minister and would not require my interference till his attempts to negotiate should have failed. He, however, wished me to examine his arguments and those of the Paishwa, and to concert with him the best means of pleading the Gaikwar's cause when the matter should come to an arbitration. This I declined as being obviously inconsistent with the character of arbitrator which belonged to the Government I represented. At the same time I explained that I admitted no such proposals from the Paishwa's ministers.

The next topic discussed was the renewal of the farm of Ahmedabad, which the Shastry said, he considered as the principal object of his mission. I argued the necessity of speedily bringing the affair to a settlement as the expiration of the lease was so near at hand and as the Paishwa would certainly insist on the place being made over to him if the lease was not renewed before that period arrived but the Shastry contended that it was impolitic to show any anxiety for the renewal of the lease and did not agree with me respecting the necessity of making over the country to the Paishwa at the expiration of the term. He defended his opinion on the ground of some ambiguity in that article of the last lease by which the British Government engages for the restoration of Ahmedabad at the end of the prescribed period, and on the fact that without the assistance of the British Government the Paishwa could never have recovered it at all. I still maintained that the country must be given up (if the Paishwa demanded it) on the day of the expiration of the lease, the Shastry said if that was the case, he might give up all hopes of success in the negotiation, for that all depended on the British Government telling the Paishwa in a firm tone that the renewal of the lease was for his good and must be granted and that I was much mistaken if I thought the Paishwa to be prevailed on to renew the lease by civil speeches. I said that I was aware of the difficulty of procuring the object in view but that if it could not be attained by fair persuasion it must

be abandoned. The Shastry then insisted on the importance of the point and on the consequence attached to it by the court of Directors and earnestly requested me to write to your Lordship for fresh instructions which I declined, saying I was well aware of your Lordship's wish for the renewal of the lease and of your conviction that it would be equally beneficial to the Guikwar, the British Government and the Paishwa; but that I was also certain that your Lordship would never sanction any language towards the Paishwa which bore the least appearance of intimidation. The Shastry on this, professed to consider the question of Ahmedabad as lost, but he has since appeared more sanguine. His plan now is to combine the renewal of the lease with the payment, of a certain sum on the score of the Paishwa's demands, and all he asks of me is to endeavour to show the Paishwa the advantages of the course proposed. I am afraid he will meet with considerable difficulties, but he possesses much acuteness and ability and he shall want no assistance which I can with propriety afford him.

The Paishwa having shown me disposition to comply with the conditions on which I was authorized to employ Lieut. Colonel Dowse's force against Sondoor and there being no longer any other occasion for the services of that force in the Maratta country, I sent a message to the minister to say, that the army to the southward would soon break up, and that, unless the Paishwa should consent to the proposed conditions Sondoor would be left in its present state as in such circumstances. I had no orders to employ our troops against it. The minister in reply desired to see Captain Close and I have the honour to enclose that gentleman's report of the conversation which took place. I shall mention the limitations under which I am authorized to afford assistance to the Paishwa, once more before Lieut. Colonel Dowse's force breaks up, but I do not think myself at liberty to depart in the least from the line which has been taken. Considering the question singly, it is desirable to taken Sondoor for the Paishwa, and run the risk of incurring expense in doing so, but if His Highness's interpretation of the treaty of Basseen be admitted in this instance it becomes incumbent on us to reduce Mulhargurh in Malwa (now held by Suwur Khan) and all the rest of the Peshwa's detached possessions of which he has been deprived since the formation of alliance.

Captain Colose's report also contains some fresh complaints of the minister's respecting our conduct is Sawunt Waree. I have nothing to add to Captain Close's replies, and if the matter is again mentioned to me, I shall offer to submit the minister's observations to your Excellency, apprizing him at the same time, that they will probably be thought unreasonable.

I have for some time past been much pressed by Holkar's Vakeel to procure the assistance of His Highness the Nizam's Government in the suppression of an insurrection in Amber a district of Holkar's, situated, the midst of the Nizam's territories. As

abstaining from it as before reported. I am inclined to think the minister's statement in a great degree correct for though I have long since heard of Vakeela having awaited on Trimbuk Dangalia who lately commanded the Paishwa's force on the frontier. I have not heard that they received any sort of encouragement from the Government. The minister next spoke of communications which he had received from Sindia and Holkar, in answer to His Highness's letters about the Pindarries and also of a letter or message from the Raja of Berar on the same subject. Holkar excused himself and said nothing satisfactory and the Rajah merely solicited assistance, but Sindia spoke in the most serious terms of his designs against the Pindarries and Meer Khan also, if he afforded any support to these freebooters. The minister said some reply would be necessary to these communications and desired and my opinion on that most suitable. I said I thought the most general recommendation to discourage and repress the rise of the Pindarries would be sufficient for Sindia and Holkar, and that I thought he ought to be cautious how he addressed the Rajah of Berar on the present subject, lest he should inspire hopes of assistance from the allies against Meer Khan or the Pindarries which in the present circumstances I thought exceedingly unlikely to be realized. The minister said he would send me drafts of his letters he proposed to submit to the Paishwa and that I should again see those adopted by His Highness before they were dispatched.

On receiving the late happy intelligence from Europe, I directed a Royal salute to be fired and sent to acquaint the minister with the news. The minister showed the highest satisfaction at the success of the British arms and cause, bestowed a dress of honour on the messenger, and sent Anandrao to congratulate me on the event.

I have the honour to report to your Excellency that Colonel Smith arrived at this station on the 15th instant, and took the command of the subsidiary force which had been held for the time by Lieut. Colonel East. Col. Smith had, till now remained with my concurrence at Bombay where he was detained by a severe domestic affliction, since the date of my last dispatch the 1st battalion 4th regiment Bombay No. 9 has joint the subsidiary force, and relieved the 2nd battalion 2nd regiment Bombay N. I. which has proceeded on its march to Baroda.

I have the honour to be,

Poona :

Sir,

26th March 1814.

(Sd.) M. ELPHINSTONE.

Letter No. 41.—The enclosure to the letter which is a copy of Elphinstone's address to the Governor-General, dated 1st May, touches on several points. The lease of Ahmedabad, the action to be taken against Rastia and Gokla, the adjustment of Gaikwar dispute, and the Peshwa's claims on the Nizam are the most important ones.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, 21st May 1814.

I have the honour to forward for your information the enclosed copy of my dispatch No. 6, dated 11th instant, to His Excellency the Governor-General.

MY LORD,

His Highness the Peshwa arrived on the 2nd instant and was received with the usual honours. His Highness's own Brigade was drawn out on this occasion, and its appearance was very satisfactory and very creditable to Captain Ford and the officers under his command.

On the 5th I accompanied Gungadhur Shastry on his visit to the Peshwa; no business was done at this interview, except that I said a few words to open the Shastry's negotiations and to dispose the Peshwa to regard him favourably. I however took occasion to request to see His Highness on business. His Highness fixed the next day but one for that purpose, but he was afterwards obliged to excuse himself in consequence of the death of his father-in-law, and at length fixed yesterday evening when I attended him at his palace.

The principal object I had in view was to endeavour to persuade His Highness to renew the lease of Ahmedabad which expires early in next month. For this purpose, after several consultations with the Shastry I drew up a paper of which the enclosed is a translation containing the principal arguments for continuing the lease and after some preliminary observations I begged the Paishwa to hear it read. His Highness was evidently reluctant to listen to any arguments on the subject and uneasy at the prospect of its being discussed, and accordingly instead of reading the paper he said that he had the most perfect dependence on the good faith of the British Government and was confident it would never wish to avoid the fulfilment of its engagement for the evacuation of Ahmedabad at the end of the lease. I told His Highness that the British Government had not the least hesitation about performing the engagement His Highness alluded to, which I admitted in the most unqualified terms, but that it was for His Highness to consider whether he would find most advantage in resuming the farm or in continuing it to the Gaikwar. I then brought forward some of the arguments contained in the paper, to all which His

Highness gave the same answer that it was a reproach to him to give up the management of his own territories and that he had given a lease of Ahmadabad for ten years to oblige us and hoped we would now oblige him by allowing him to resume it. I at last prevailed on him to hear the paper read by the minister when he came to the part where an increase of the rent is mentioned among the inducements to a resumption. He said that consideration had no weight at all with him, and when the minister had got a little further he stopped him, began to answer the arguments that he had been read, and interrupted the further perusal of the paper. He was very animated and earnest throughout and said he was convinced I had his interests in view in what I said but that he was surprised I could not enter into his motive. Finding that I could make no impression on him I did not run the risk of irritating him by continuing the discussion but begged His Highness to give my paper a careful and candid perusal before he went any further in the matter which he repeatedly promised he would do.

The adjustment of the Guickwar's disputes being mentioned I took the opportunity of telling the Paishwa how agreeable it would be to your Lordship if the two Governments could settle them among themselves.

I am not at all surprised at the Peshwa's obstinacy regarding Ahmedabad. By the dispatches of the late Sir Barry Close he seems to have evinced the almost reluctance to the arrangement when first proposed and he had never since mentioned it but in terms of strong dislike. The Shastry is to see His Highness this evening and will have opportunities of pleading the cause of his Government but unless he can find some way of greatly altering His Highness's sentiments, I do not think the lease will be renewed. The old Maratta practice of bribing the ministers would probably be of no avail.

After this subject was concluded, the Peshwa began upon his own affairs. He said he supposed I had heard how Gokla had behaved to him, that he had refused to allow his troops to be mustered unless every facility was given to his imposing a 'false muster on the Government and that when this was prevented, he could only muster 800 horse out of 3,000 that were due. His Highness enumerated the favours he had conferred on Gokla who, he said, had appropriated the Prittee Needee's treasures and exacted great of sums from his country annually for five years; that at the end he had received an addition to his serinjaumy lands and had been granted a further sum of 16 lakhs of rupees as a gratuity for the services, and yet when called on to serve he did not produce a third of his contingent. As all his kindness had failed His Highness said, he would now try severity and was resolved to resume one-half of Gokla's jageer as a warning to his other subjects. He then threw some reflections on the Patwardhans, renewed his complaints against Rastia, and ended by saying that these people had fed on him for years and made him no return, except by insulting

his authority. I replied to this by observing that the British Government took an interest in the efficiency of his army not inferior to what he felt himself, that it was highly desirable to make an example of such sirdars as failed to furnish their contingents but that moderation ought to be observed in all punishment. It ought first to be ascertained whether the conduct complained of was a departure from ancient practice, and next the punishment ought to be proportioned to the offence, and ought not to go the length of destroying the offender in a case where there was no appearance of disaffection to the Government. I then mentioned the case of Rastia, communicated the substance of your Lordship's instructions to me, and again endeavoured to prevail on His Highness to mitigate the punishment he had intended and content himself with sequestrating one-half of Rastia's Jageer, but His Highness was inflexible. He said he thought it no small proof of moderation to leave him his personal allowances and but for the British Government, he would not have left him a foot of land. He then returned to Gokla and said that he would certainly seize half his Jageer, give part to his relation Esajee Punt Gokla, and apply the rest to maintaining troops in his own immediate establishment. I gave no decided answer about Rastia from a faint hope that His Highness if he took more time to consider, might yet relax in his determination about Gokla. I said that his conduct appeared unjustifiable but as his lands were guaranteed by the British Government, I must first enquire into the circumstances and then refer to your Excellency for orders to which the Peshwa agreed.

It is necessary to mention (with reference to a passage in Mr. Adam's letter regarding Rastia) that that chieftain has long expressed his readiness to furnish his contingent, but as the Peshwa had previously declared and steadily adhered to a resolution not to accept its services, there was no opportunity of judging of Rastia's sincerity. It is however, probable that he was sincere, as he was well aware of the danger to which he was exposed.

Gokla's affair, I understand, is as follows. In consequence of my applications when the subsidiary force was ordered to be put on the field establishment, the Peshwa had ordered musters to be taken of all the troops on the frontier and sent a person to muster those belonging to Gokla which had remained at Poona. The person sent was Trimbukji Danglia one of those low men (generally menial servants) who rise into consequence at all native courts, by turning informers on pretence of zeal and attachment to the Prince's person. He appears to have received no gratification from Gokla, and either to punish that omission or to show his zeal, he seems to have determined to conduct the minister with great vigour. Gokla, however, having an understanding with the minister, was under no apprehension, but completed his contingent by borrowing and hiring troops for the occasion in Poona and its vicinity. This practice is the prevailing abuse of irregular

armies, and most of their muster regulations are designed to prevent its occurrence. For this purpose, an accurate description is taken down of every man and horse, with the age and time of entertaining, and any alteration that takes place between musters must be carefully noted down for the inspection of the Government officers. Trimluckjee availed himself of this practice in his affair with Gokla, and declared his intention of seizing every horse for the Peshwa's benefit if the appearance of which did not correspond to the description rolls. On the Gokla refusing to allow the muster, the minister interposed in his favour, but Trimluckjee adhered to his resolution, and discovered that many of the horses in his own service had contributed to Gokla's false muster, with a view of detecting and proving his intended fraud. If the above statement be correct, there can be no excuse for Gokla, who has been treated with extraordinary indulgence, and is reckoned the richest individual in the Peshwa's service. I shall however learn what he has to say in his defence, before I make my final report to your Excellency.

At the end of my interview with the Peshwa, His Highness adverted to his claims on the Nizam, noticed the length of time that had elapsed, and said he hoped your Excellency would now direct them to be enquired into. I replied to this by alluding to the many causes that has contributed to obstruct this investigation, since its first commencements by assuring him of your Lordship's determination to do him justice and by adverting to the progress now making in the examination of his claims on the Guickwar which had lain over for an equal period of time. I would however beg leave to suggest to your Excellency the expediency of a speedy enquiry into the claims in question. The difficulty of, adjusting them must be increased by every day's delay and although the Peshwa has had too many proofs of the friendship of the British to allow of his suspecting us of indifference to his interests in this particular, yet his attention is constantly drawn to it by petty disputes with the Nizam's Government. I find it almost impossible to offer any explanation that shall be entirely satisfactory of the long delay that has taken place since his proofs were first called for in the administration of Sir George Barlow.

I have lately received another visit from Holkar's Vakeel who came to read letters from his court, claiming the merit of the late dissensions among the Pindarries, desiring that Sindia might be directed to co-operate against those freebooters, asking the advice of the Peshwa and the British Government with respect to the propriety of pursuing the remains of Seetoo's force and denying all intention of attacking Nagpur. The Vakeel also showed a desire to discover our intentions in respect to the Rajah of Berar. I replied to the Vakeel by stating that the Resident with Sindia had already used his influence to induce that Government to co-operate against the Pindarries, that with respect of pursuing those freebooters as the Vakeel stated them to have retired into Sindia's

territories and not into ours or those of the allies, I had no opinion to offer on the subject in answer to the professions about Nagpur. I said I had never called for explanations on that head but was happy to hear that the tranquillity to the Deckan was not likely to be disturbed and I added that I had no intention regarding the Rajah of Berar's affairs the conduct of which as far as regarded the British Government, belonged to Mr. Jenkins.

Poona :

The 1st May 1814.

(Sd.) M. ELPHINSTONE.

Letter No. 42.—The enclosure to this letter, which is a copy of Elphinstone's address to the Governor General, dated the 28th May 1814, refers to the Peshwa's intention to recall Balaji Koonjur from the service of the Sindhia, the resumption of Ahmedabad and some other minor points.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, 3rd June 1914.

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of my address No. 7, dated the 28th ultimo, to His Excellency the Governor-General.

MY LORD,

Since I had last the honour of addressing your Excellency I have received notice from His Highness the Paishwa of his intention to recall Ballajee Koonjur who was formerly his Prime Minister but who has resided since the treaty of Basseen at the court of Dowlat Rao Sindia. The motive assigned for this measure is the advanced age and declining health of Ballajee Koonjur which made him anxious to visit his native country but the general report is that he is to be appointed minister in the place of Seddasheo Maunkausur and such I have some reason to think is the case. Maunkaisur however affects to entertain no alarm from his rival's return and gives out that the Paishwa's present resolution has been brought about by his persuasion.

Ballajee Koonjur was formerly distrusted by the British Government and his return to Poona was on one occasion discouraged as likely to produce effects unfavourable to the alliance. The state of affairs is greatly altered since that period and his presence or even his restoration to power is now more likely to produce inconvenience than danger but still it seemed to be improper to treat his recall as a mere matter of course and I thought it expedient to have some explanation on the subject with the Paishwa.

For this purpose I solicited a private interview with His Highness, a mode of communication of which I was desirous to introduce the occasional practice. His Highness retired into a separate

apartment with me as I desired but he evidently was uneasy at the proposal and I soon found him entirely disinclined to departing from the former method of communication. He spoke to me in the Maratta language and made many professions of regard and of anxiety to keep up a direct personal intercourse, but he excused himself on the ground of his entire ignorance of the Hindonstane from entering on business, and after many attempts to soothe him and to engage him in conversation I was obliged to agree to his calling in the minister and Anund Rao, in addition to one of his favourable personal attendants who had been all the time standing in the room. When the ministers came in, I repeated what I had said respecting my wish to see His Highness occasionally alone and His Highness replied by many handsome speeches, but still showed the same attachment to established customs and fear of innovation even in so trifling a matter. I then proceeded to say that His Highness's intentions regarding, Ballajee Koonjur had been communicated to me and that I did not intend to start any objection to their execution, but that His Highness must remember the opinion of Koonjur's disinclination to the alliance that had been entertained as well by His Highness as the British Government; and that in the event of his return your Lordship would rely on His Highness for preventing any attempts of his to lessen the friendship between the states if he should still be inclined to make any. To this the Paishwa replied by saying that the opinions which had been entertained of Ballajee Koonjur were entirely unfounded, that it was in fact that minister who had principally contributed to bring about the alliance between him and the British Government. He then recounted the history of the secret interview between His Highness and Colonel Close which led to the preliminary treaty and said that the whole transaction had been arranged by Koonjur and that he was certain that minister would never attempt to shake the alliance. I replied to this by saying that I was unacquainted with Koonjur's services in the beginning of the negotiation, that His Highness must remember the subsequent doubts regarding him, but that if His Highness was satisfied of his good intentions, I had no longer any doubt as I knew His Highness to be as anxious for the preservation of the alliance as your Lordship. His Highness replied that I only did his justice in relying on his attachment to an alliance to which he owed so many blessings, and that he could assure me nothing was to be apprehended from Koonjur, for whose conduct he would himself be responsible. The minister also spoke in favour of Koonjur's return but less on the ground of his good intentions than of his insignificance. He was, he said, scarcely alive and the Paishwa only wished to permit him to die in his own country. At last I repeated that I never intended to object to Koonjur's return, and that if I had, I should have been entirely satisfied by what His Highness had said.

I then begged to know if the Paishwa had read my paper on the Guickwar's affairs, but His Highness entreated me to excuse him on that subject, saying that he was always unwilling to engage

personally in discussion that might lead to altercation with his best friends, and that he begged me to receive his answer from the minister.

I afterwards mentioned the subjects of Gokla and Rastia on both of which I found the Paishwa inexorable. Previous to this interview I had called on Gokla to account for the deficiency in his musters. He sent his uncle to endeavour to extenuate his misconduct but offered nothing in his own defence; he said that there were really 1,200 horse present instead of 800 as the Paishwa had said but the acknowledged that the condition on which he received the late addition to his lands was that he should submit to frequent and strict musters and that he had no further excuse to make. The Paishwa has lately called on Rastia to give orders of surrender for all his lands except those granted for his personal support, amounting as I hear to about one lack of Rs. annual revenue. Rastia made a reference to me but I repeated as had often done before that his departure from the terms on which the Paishwa agreed to the guarantee of the British Government put it out of my power to interpose in his favour.

Two days ago the minister sent a message to beg Captain Close might pay him a visit and I have the honour to enclose a copy of the officer's report of what passed on the occasion. Your Lordship will observe that the Paishwa insists on resuming Ahmedabad and is particularly dissatisfied with the protraction of his disputes with the Nizam.

Colonel Smith having been at Poona since His Highness the Paishwa's return, I took an opportunity of introducing him to His Highness. The Paishwa received him with much civility and presented him with the dresses usually given on such occasions.

I have also at the Paishwa's own request, accompanied Major Kennedy of the 2nd Battalion 3rd Regiment to visit His Highness; Major Kennedy had been sent from Fort Victoria to the Paishwa during his flight into the Cocan while Holkar was in possession of Poona in 1802-3. He was of great use to His Highness on that occasion and His Highness never fails to express a strong recollection of his exertions and services.

I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the 2nd Battalion 9th Regiment of Bombay Native Infantry has arrived in the Deccan and relieved the 2nd Battalion 3rd Regiment which has proceeded on its march to Bombay.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Poona : Your most obedient humble servant

The 28th May 1814.

(Sd.) M. ELPHINSTO

Resident at P

Letter No. 43.—The enclosure to this letter is important. It contains information about the engagements entered into with the Nawab of Bhopal and the manner in which the Chiefs of Dharwar and Sondoore defied the authority of the Peshwa.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA,
TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Poona, the 20th December 1814.

I have the honour to forward for your information a copy of my address No. 12 of the 17th instant to His Excellency the Governor General.

MY LORD,

Having yesterday learned from a copy of Mr. Strachey's dispatch of the 30th November to your Excellency that the conclusion of engagements with the state of Bhopal and the intended operations against the Pindaries had been communicated to Dowlat Rao Sindia I thought it advisable to lose no time in acquainting the Paishwa with those measures. His Highness would otherwise have received his first intelligence on the subject from Sindia's camp probably misrepresented so as to suit the views of that court and would at all events have been dissatisfied at not having been earlier apprized of the designs of the allies.

I therefore waited on the minister yesterday evening and after conversing for some time about the outrages of the Pindaries in the neighbourhood of Poona and showing how little the Subsidiary Force could do against an enemy of that description I told him that the British Government had been unremitting in its attention to the means of coercing those Banditte that it had constantly pressed His Highness the Paishwa and its other allies to exert themselves for the defence of their territories and had at the same time earnestly and repeatedly urged Sindia and Holkar to restrain those Pindaries who were considered as under their authority. All this I said he already knew and it was plain enough that notwithstanding all these measures the Pindaries yearly increased in numbers and audacity, and he could not say he was confident that their next attack would not be on Poona itself. From all this it was obvious to your Excellency that nothing could save the territories of the allies from devastation or our own from insult, but a vigorous assault on the retreats of the Pindaries and a resolution to drive them to a distance from the frontiers of the combined powers. With this view you had entered on negotiations with the Nawab of Bhopaul whose concurrence was necessary to the prosecution of your design, and had been unable to communicate your plans to His Highness till this point on which so much turned should be set at rest; that the Nabob had now agreed to your terms and was taken under the protection of the British Government and that I lost no time in acquainting His Highness with an event so important to the whole of the allies.

The Bhow received this intelligence with great satisfaction : said he had always maintained that nothing else would be effectual and insisted that we ought both in justice and policy to compel Sindia and Holkar to join in our operations and utterly to extirpate the whole tribe of the Pindarries. He then talked of the Paishwa's armies advancing along with ours and promised that they should immediately be prepared for the field.

I did not fail to take this opportunity of renewing my instances for the advance of a large body of troops to the frontier and of earnestly requesting the minister to point out in the strongest language to His Highness the necessity of taking immediate measures to protect his subjects and to retrieve the reputation of his Government.

At a former interview the minister had acquainted me with two incidents which took place on the Paishwa's journey to the Southward. The Killahdar of Darwar had come to wait on His Highness and had consented to his visiting the fort which belongs to His Highness but when the Paishwa's escort approached the gates those within objected to their numbers and refused them admittance. His Highness on this removed the Killahdar from his command and ordered a guard of horsemen to look after him till the place should be delivered over. This man Baupoojee Sindia was appointed Governor of Darwar by Nana Furnavees during the independence of the Southern countries ; he was only in nominal obedience to the Paishwa and the Duke of Wellington was requested while on his advance in 1803 to make over the fort to another person ; that person however did not appear in time and His grace determined to leave Baupoojee Sindia in possession on condition of his giving hostages for his good behaviour during the war. Baupoojee Sindia gave his son as a hostage and conducted himself ever after to the Duke's entire satisfaction. At the end of the war his son was restored and our connection with him ceased. The Paishwa's design was probably from the first to take the fort into his own hands but as the Killahdar holds his office during pleasure his suspicions did not justify his shutting the gates against His Highness.

The other circumstances occurred at Sondoor where Gorepurry fortified the usual route to Kartik Swamy and refused to allow the Paishwa to pass by it and even when His Highness had made a circuit of 20 or 30 miles to a passage less obnoxious to the jealousy of the chief of Sondoor, his approach was opposed by a guard of matchlockmen and he was obliged to secure a passage by force of arms. The minister now renewed this last subject and explained at great length the Paishwa's reasons for not reducing Sondoor. The object of the whole discourse appeared to be to let me know that the Paishwa still entertained hopes that the British Government would take the place for him.

The minister afterwards produced and read a paper extracted from the records of the Paishwa's Government which seemed to show that the ancestor of the person often called the Nana of

Calpee had originally been invested with no higher character than that of a Maumlutdar or farmer of the revenue; that the immediate predecessor of the present chief stood on no other footing, I translate to receive a copy of this paper today and shall transmit a translation of it for your Excellency's information. The Minister then pressed me to consent to his granting the solicited investiture to the chief of Calpee without any further reference to your Excellency and on my stating this to be impossible he showed great anxiety about receiving a speedy answer, urging that the Paishwa lost revenue by every delay, but probably in reality afraid that the chief of Calpee might change his views if he were allowed long to consider. Many other subjects were discussed relating to Ahmedabad, to the exchange of territory near Saulsee and other points of small or local interest with which it is unnecessary to trouble your Excellency.

The Pindaries were last heard of at Phultan about 70 miles south-east of Poona and within 40 miles of Punderpoor to which town they appear to be directing their course. The Minister has sent out 500 horse in pursuit of them who had marched 15 miles before last night.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Poona :
The 20th December 1814.

(Sd.) M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona.

P.S.

I have the honour to report to your Excellency that I have this day received information from Colonel Smith of his having with the force under his command taken up the position he was directed to occupy at Jafferabad.

Poona.

The 17th December 1814.

(Sd.) M. ELPHINSTONE.

(A True Copy)

To—His Excellency the Earl J. Moira, K.G., Governor General.

(Sd.) RUSSELL.

Letter No. 44.—The letter refers to the negotiations between the British and the Nawab of Bhopal who sought the British protection, dispatch of a force by the Peshwa to guard the frontier, Nepal war and other affairs of general interest.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA,

To—THE EARL OF MOIRA, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, the 18th January 1815.

I waited on the Peshwa yesterday and after an interchange of compliments and congratulations natural on meeting after a long interval, I recapitulated in a few words your Lordship's intentions

regarding Bhopal, introducing the alterations suggested by my instructions. I noticed that in adopting the present measures your Lordship had had in view the means which they would afford of extending your protection in a greater degree to the Vinchoorkur, and other feudatories of this Government; as well as the effect which they would have in preventing the Pindaries from crossing the Nerbudda. I said the Nabob of Bhopal had long been seeking the protection of the British Government, that your Lordship had acquainted him with the terms on which he might obtain it, that he seemed satisfied with the conditions, and the negotiation was in progress though not yet concluded.

2. His Highness replied to this communication in terms of great zeal and cordiality, expressed his sense of your Excellency's attention to his interests, and declared his anxiety to support your measures by all the means in his power. He said he should in four days send off 4,000 of his own horse and 1,000 of those belonging to Jagirdars to join Colonel Smith, that he should send the rest of the Jagirdars to the point on the frontier which had already been agreed on, and should spare no exertion to bring the greatest force he could collect into the field. Before His Highness delivered this reply, the minister slightly suggested to him his own claims on Bhopal, but as His Highness did not notice the subject to me, I thought it unnecessary to remark on it. The Ministers' suggestion was perhaps preconcerted, and in all likelihood was only one of those expedients by which the Marattas always contrive to evade the entire renunciation of any of their pretensions.

3. The Peshwa further mentioned, that he had appointed Trimbakji Danglia to command his troops with Colonel Smith, and intended to give him a general control over all those on the frontier. On my pressing him for a detailed statement of his force, and urging the necessity of promptitude in sending them forward, he referred me to a future communication from the Minister, with whom he said he would, that night arrange all the movements I referred to.

4. Some conversation followed relating to the Gaikwar's affairs, which I shall communicate to the Right Hon'ble the Governor of Bombay, and I afterwards made strong instances with the Peshwa, to carry into effect some subordinate branches of the treaty with Kolhapore, as well as some points arising from the agreements with His Highness, Amrut Rao and with the Killahdar of Lohgar, which are not yet fulfilled though the treaties were concluded upwards of eleven years ago.

5. The Peshwa next asked whether he might yet comply with the application of Nana Govind Rao for a settlement of the accounts and for an investiture, to which I replied that I had forwarded the paper the minister had given me to your Lordship, but that there had not been time for me to receive an answer. I then acquainted

the Peshwa with the substance of declaration of war with Nepal, and the progress of operations on that quarter, at which His Highness expressed great satisfaction

6 When His Highness was gone, I remained to discuss with the Minister, the steps best calculated for the early and effectual protection of His Highness's frontier. I received strong promises that the steps I recommended should be adopted without delay, and Trimbakji Danglia, who also remained after the Peshwa was gone, assured me that he should exert himself to march immediately and that I might depend on his paying implicit attention to all the wishes of the British authorities.

7 This person was originally a common attendant of the Peshwa's (of the class called Hoojras). He got into favour during the Peshwa's expulsion from Poona, and has since risen to offices of great trust and importance. His low origin will render his command disagreeable to the Jagirdars, and his character for rapacity may be productive of other inconveniences but his elevation is not a new thing among the Marattas, the foundation of the house of Sindhia having risen from the same office (the most menial duties of which are still discharged by his descendant when he meets the Peshwa). He has the advantage of possessing the Peshwa's confidence to a greater extent than any person in the country, and as his future views of ambition must be greatly forwarded by a good understanding with the British Government. I think he will be zealous in promoting the common service.

8 No endeavour on my part shall be wanting to bring about the early execution of the arrangements, of which the Peshwa speaks so confidently. I do not however expect that they will ever be realized to the extent held out by His Highness.

Letter No. 45.—The letter, a copy of which is sent to R. Jenkins, Resident at Nagpur under date 3rd April 1815, refers to the activities of Trimbakji Danglia, commanding the Peshwa's force, the seige of Dharwar, forcible removal of Appa Rao Nimbalkar from Poona by the men of the Sachiv, Peshwa's claims to a fort ceded by the Gond Raja of Berar, and certain other affairs

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA,

TO—THE EARL OF MOIRA, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, the 31st March 1815

The Peshwa's force, which was to have been commended by Trimbakji Danglia, has at length crossed the Godavery and has remained for three weeks halted in the Nizam's country. A thousand horse have been sent to join Colonel Smith, and I have dispensed with the attendance of any larger body, coinciding in opinion with that officer, that they would be of no use and would distress the British troops by their consumption of provisions and forage. The strength of the remaining body is about 2,000 men.

2. I hear nothing more of the formation of the intended force under Gokhla and Appa Desai, the former is allowed to remain at, Poona though I have often pressed his departure; it is even said that part of his contingent is about to be employed to the Southward. Appa Desai also is still left at Neepaunee in spite of my constant remonstrances. He has sent in 600 or 700 men who are encamped in the neighbourhood of this place. The Patwardhans alone took the field in November last, and have been ever since encamped at Phooltaumba on the Godavery. People have lately gone on the Peshwa's part to muster them, and I expect to have loud complaints from the Durbar of their deficiencies. In the mean time the Patwardhans frequently complain of the disturbance created in the Jagirs by the Agent of Trimbakjee Danglia who is Soobehdar of Savanore. Trimbakjee has given several orders to him to forbear but these are not attended to, and their complaints, as is uniformly the case, are entirely neglected by the Durbar.

3. A circumstance relating to the settlement with Kolhapore is illustrative, of His Highness's disposition towards this family. Two villages, Bhoze and Yekshumba, which formed part of the Jagir of the Patwardhans were recovered by Appa Desai from the Raja and on investigation were proved to be the Peshwa's. On this I assured the Patwardhans that the villages should be restored to them, agreeably to the engagements entered into at Pandharpore, but I did not give them the orders of surrender, which were in my possession, until I should have paid the Peshwa the compliment of receiving authority from him. Before I could do this His Highness came forward with a request that I would make over the villages to him as the Patwardhans did not deserve them. To this I, of course, would not listen, but I am still prevented from making the restoration that is due, by His Highness's insisting on his claim.

4. The siege of Darwar has made no progress. I have repeatedly advised the Ministers, especially Trimbakjee to whom the conduct of the siege is entrusted to grant terms to the Killadar on condition of the fort being surrendered, but I do not hear of any offers being made of the nature referred to.

5. A circumstance lately took place in Poona which has excited a good deal of surprise and alarm among the inhabitants. This was the seizure of Appajee Rao Nimbalkar, a Sirdar of great rank and probably the richest man in the whole Maratta Empire, who was carried off by 200 armed men from the heart of Poona in real, or apparent, defiance of the Peshwa's authority. Appajee Rao employed a great part of his wealth in lending money at interest, and was owed a large sum by the Punt Suchev, one of the eight Purdhauns who holds a tract of country and many strong forts as a fief of the Sahoo Rajah's. On pretence of realizing this debt, Nimbalkar seized the person of the Suchev and threw him into close confinement. He also laid siege to several of the Suchev's forts, plundered his villages, and threw all that part of the country

into disorder. These proceedings, especially the confinement of the Suchev, were generally viewed with great disgust, but appear to have met with the approbation of His Highness the Peshwa, who was probably pursuing the policy of his ancestors in depressing, and endeavouring to annihilate, the great feudatories of the Sahoo Raja, and who, it was said, was further conciliated by a promise of the fort of Torna belonging to the Suchev, which was to be taken by Nimbalkar. That Chief however failed in all his attempts, and it became evident that nothing but odium was to be gained by supporting him. His Highness the Peshwa nevertheless continued to afford him apparent support and had given him a favourable audience on the day of his seizure. The party who committed this outrage belonged to the Punt Suchev, in one of whose forts they lodged Nimbalkar. The Suchev has since been released by His Highness's means, and is to enter Poona today or tomorrow. Nimbalkar's two sons fled on their father's seizure to the family Fort of Wattaur, about 60 miles south-west of Poona. It is said that Gokhla's Detachment, though nominally proceeding to quell an insurrection in his own Jagir, is designed against this place.

6. My communications with the Durbar continue to turn chiefly on the affairs of Guzerat and Katteewar, on which much discussion has taken place, but I shall suspend my reports, both to the Government of Bombay and to the Secretary in the Political Department until those affairs shall be brought to some termination.

7. I lately received a letter from the Resident at Nagpur, stating that a fort in Gondwana, called Dhoalghat, which had been disputed between the Rajah of Berar and the Nizam, had been seized by the former; that on the Resident's remonstrating the Rajah had consented to restore it, but that when the Deputies of the two states went to the place to execute his agreement a part of Trimbakjee Danglia's force at Mulharra suddenly advanced and occupied the place in the Peshwa's name. When I remonstrated with Trimbakjee on this outrageous conduct, he told me that the Gond Raja, to whom this place belonged, had been a partizan of Sheikh Dulla, the freebooter whom he had pursued into Gondwana; that in consequence of this circumstance he had invaded the Rajah's country, but afterwards concluded a peace, through the mediation of Sindhia's officer in charge of Assergarh, and had received this among other cessions. I did not fail to demand an explanation of this gross violation of the 17th article of the Treaty of Basseen and Trimbakji endeavoured at the time to explain it away, but he afterwards sent his treaty with the Raja for my inspection. The preamble stated, that the Rajah being exposed to great oppression from their Highnesses the Nizam and the Rajah of Berar, had agreed to cede a fourth of his principality to the Peshwa on condition of his defending the rest. It was therefore a defensive alliance against the Nizam and the Rajah of Berar. I only heard this treaty hastily read, and may have mistaken its object, but I shall immediately apply for a copy and shall acquaint

your Excellency with the result of my enquiries into this extraordinary transaction. In the meantime I shall continue to urge the immediate restoration of the fort of Dhoolghat to the Nizam.

8. In a similar spirit is the recent conduct of the Durbar regarding Mandavee. The Peshwa's tribute from this place was ceded to the British Government by the Treaty of Basseen, and it was decided, after a very careful investigation, that His Highness retained no right over it. His Highness's Sirsoobahdar of Basseen has nevertheless, lately summoned the Rajah to pay a fine on his succession, and acknowledge the Peshwa's sovereignty, and my attempts to obtain a counter order have been utterly unavailing.

9. The Peshwa's Durbar has lately maintained an absolute silence on the subject of its claims on the Nizam, regarding which it used to be so clamorous. I have not yet obtained the list of the places claimed by the Peshwa in Hindustan, which has been so often applied for and so often promised. The Minister however occasionally complains with great bitterness of my opposition to their adjustment with the Chief of Kalpee and of the conduct of the British Government towards their other dependants in that quarter.

Letter No. 46.—In this personal letter Jenkins, at the earnest request of Raghoji Bhonsla pleads with Elphinstone to exert his influence for the release of Nimbalkar and for a settlement of his affairs.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR,

TO—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

Nagpur, the 22nd May 1815.

MY DEAR ELPHINSTONE,

I am almost ashamed to trouble you again on the subject of Nimbalkar's affairs, knowing how ill he formerly behaved when you interfered yourself in his favour, but the repeated requests I have received from the Rajah, repeated personally at my last visit to the Durbar, induce me once more to trouble you. The Rajah knows fully the ground of dissatisfaction Nimbalkar formerly gave you, and is well informed that even should that objection have no weight you will not do any thing contrary to your ideas of the Peshwa's rights on the occasion, if they are concerned in the question of interference or non-interference.

After this preface I will mention, that the release of Nimbalkar from his confinement is one request, the settlement of all his affairs the second, and the third that he may be permitted to take up his abode in the Company's provinces. How far the last of these requests is seriously preferred I do not know and it is of little consequence, but with regard to the first the Rajah has been very urgent and would admit of no objection, at least to my making one effort to induce you to use your influence for that purpose.

Letter No. 47.—The letter a copy of which, dated the 2nd June 1815, is sent to R. Jenkins, Resident at Nagpur, is very important. It draws the attention of the Peshwa to a series of breaches of the treaty conditions and refers to a communication sent by Raghoji Bhonsala to the Peshwa, about a conspiracy against the life of the latter. The enclosures mention the details of the infringement of Treaty conditions.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA,

TO—THE EARL OF MOIRA, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Nasik, the 27th May 1815.

I have the honour to report to your Excellency that His Highness the Peshwa arrived here yesterday. It is supposed he will remain till the end of next month when he will proceed to Pandharpore. The Minister Sadashiv Mankeshwar, came part of the way but has returned to Poona; I have now no intercourse with him, all business being transacted by Trimbakjee Danglia to whom the Minister refers every application.

2. Your Lordship may have heard from the Government of Bombay and from the Resident at Nagpur and Hyderabad, of the excesses committed or countenanced by the Peshwa's officers in the British and Gaikwar territories in Guzerat, as well as in Kathiawar, Berar and Gondwana. I am disposed to attribute these acts of violence more to the inexperience and Maratha habits of the new Minister than to any deliberate departure from the treaty of Basseen. It is however a bad sign that some of the worst of the acts complained of, have been committed subsequently to remonstrances on my part and promises of amendment on theirs. Whatever may be the design of the Durbar, it is obvious that such proceedings must soon lead to serious disturbances. I have therefore this day addressed a remonstrance to the Minister of which the enclosed contains the substance.

3. In conformity to your Lordship's commands I entered into correspondence with the authorities referred to, on the subject of the steps to be taken regarding the Poona Subsidiary Force. It appeared desirable to retain the extra troops, to canton the force at Jalna and to keep up a sufficient number of cattle to enable it to move within the Peshwa's frontier, but to reduce such parts of its establishments as were entertained with a view to more remote expeditions. The Europeans have marched into Jalna and will be followed by the natives as soon as the families of the Hyderabad force are removed and the reductions are in progress.

4. I have acquainted the Peshwa with your Excellency's resolution respecting the Chief of Sagur, accompanying my communication with a copy of our treaty with that Chief and a statement of your Excellency's expectations. His Highness granted a Khillat of investiture to the Chief in question, on the same day on which I announced your Excellency's consent to it.

5. I hear of no progress being made in the siege of Dharwar.

6. I have lately received intelligence from Mr. Jenkins of the Rajah of Berar's intention to send a Mission to Poona for the purpose of acquainting the Peshwa with a design which has been formed against his life by some Pathans in the Company's southern possessions, and to instruct him in the best way of securing his own safety. I shall use my best endeavours to discover the real motive of this mission, which is the more extraordinary as the Peshwa, so far from needing to be warned of this supposed conspiracy has long taken the most public measures to guard his person against it.

*Substance of a paper presented to the Peshwa's Ministers
on the 27th of May 1815*

Numerous and important infringements of the treaty of Bassien (especially in the 12th, 13th and 17th articles) having lately taken place, and His Highness the Peshwa's officers having shown a strong disposition to revive the violent system of proceeding which it was the object of that treaty to abolish, it has been thought expedient to exhibit the principal of these breaches of treaty in one view, in the idea that His Highness is not at all apprized of the transactions that have taken place, and that even the ministers who have given rise to them, are not aware of the manner in which their conduct has effected the engagements between His Highness and the British Government. It is hoped that a stop will now be put to these proceedings which must otherwise lead to serious embarrassment.

At the time of the pursuit of Sheikh Dulla, the Peshwa's Officers claimed the post of Dhoolghat then held by the Nizam. Their claim was fully stated by His Highness's Vakeel at Hyderabad (Bunnajee Pant) to the Nizam's Ministers, but was ascertained to be unfounded and the post remained with the Nizam. The post having afterwards been occupied by His Highness the Rajah of Berar, the British Government interfered agreeably to the treaty of Hyderabad and after ascertaining the right of immediate possession to belong to the Nizam, prevailed on the Rajah of Berar to deliver it up to the Nizam's Officers. Commissioners on the part of both Governments accompanied by an Agent of the Resident at Nagpur proceeded to Dhoolghat for that purpose, and had nearly reached the spot when the Rajah's Officer a Gosain, having moved out, (on the 9th of February or thereabout) the post was occupied by an officer of His Highness the Peshwa's whose obvious design was to anticipate the arrangement settled by the three powers, and who refused to deliver up the post to any of the said powers whose commissioners were before it. This conduct was represented at Poona as an affront to the three states concerned, and especially as an act of contempt for the arbitration of the British Government, and the immediate surrender of the

post to the Nizam was demanded but no redress was afforded. This conduct is a breach of the 12th article of the treaty of Bassein which binds the Peshwa "never to commit any act of hostility or aggression against His Highness the Nabob Asoph Jah Bahadur or any of the principal branches of the Maratha Empire", but in the event of any difference arising with those powers to refer it to the decision of the British Government. The fort ought to be immediately evacuated by the Peshwa's troops.

2 When remonstrances on the subject of the above aggression were addressed to His Highness's Ministers, they vindicated their proceedings by producing a treaty concluded between them and Rajah Rannoojee Gond, the conclusion of which treaty is a breach of the 17th article of the treaty of Bassein, whereby the Peshwa is bound "neither to commence nor to pursue in future any negotiations with any other power whatever, without giving previous notice and entering into mutual consultation with the British Government." The above breach of engagement is aggravated by the nature of the Treaty concluded the design of which is expressly directed against the Nizam the close ally of the Peshwa and the British Government, as well as against His Highness the Rajah of Berar, and is therefore a breach of the 12th and 13th articles as well as of the 17th of the Treaty of Bassein. The treaty with Raja Rannoojee ought to be done away and the cessions obtained in consequence to be restored. If he shall refuse his consent, the Nizam's and Rajah of Berar's rights must still be respected.

3 After the refusal of the Peshwa's officers to give up the fort of Dhoolghat to the Nizam's commissioner that person retired with his troops to Hewarkhed in the Rajah of Berar's dominions, and remained there together with the Agent of the Resident at Nagpur, in expectation of an answer to the reference made to Poona on the subject of Dhoolghat. On the 3rd of May while the discussions regarding the affair of Dhoolghat were daily going on at Poona, Rainkoo Pant and Narsing Rao Daismook came to Hewarkhed and had an interview with Mr Jenkins' Agent at which they peremptorily refused to give up the post, and desired that the Nizam's troops might be withdrawn from Hewarkhed. On the 7th they sent a Karkoon and 2 Burkundauzes to say that they were expressly commanded by His Highness the Peshwa to insist on the Nizam's troops quitting Hewarkhed, and to threaten to attack them if they did not immediately withdraw. On the Nizam's officers representing that they were in the Rajah of Berar's country and not in the Peshwa's, they said the Rajah and the Peshwa were one and that the Nizam's troops must retire. The threatening messages of the Peshwa's officers are contrary to the 12th and 13th articles of the treaty of Bassein and the assertion of union between the Rajah and the Peshwa, is at variance with the 17th article as it implies a close connection of His Highness with another state unknown to the British Government.

4. The origin of all these disturbances is to be found in the neglect of the obligations of the treaty of Basseen shown by the Peshwa's Ministers at the time of their pursuit of Sheikh Dulla. At that time the fort of Mailghat having been taken by them from Sheikh Dulla, they refused to restore it to the proprietor Buggoo Gond, though the Nizam's officers who were co-operating against Sheikh Dulla announced that the said Gond was a tributary of the Nizam's and they proceeded to occupy Malharra, a village which the Nizam's officer informed them was within the Nizam's dominions, for no reason that appears except that it was held of His Highness by Buggoo Gond the proprietor of Malharra. These transactions have been a subject of remonstrance for the two or three years and are contrary to the 12th and 13th articles of the treaty of Basseen.

5. The Peshwa's officers lately seized on the Nizam's share of Babree, which had long been in his undisputed possession. This is a breach of the 12th and 13th articles of the treaty, and is aggravated by the circumstance that a commission has actually been appointed to settle His Highness's disputes with the Nizam in an amicable manner according to the treaty of Basseen. A promise has been given that Babree will be restored, but as that has not yet taken place it is necessary to insert it here, especially as it shows the spirit of violence which actuated His Highness the Peshwa's officers. The Nizam's share of the village ought immediately to be restored.

6. By the 12th article of the treaty of Basseen His Highness the Peshwa engages that in the event of any difference arising between him and any of the great branches of the Maratta Empire or any power whatever His Highness shall fully approve and acquiesce in any adjustment which the Company's Government shall determine, and moreover His Highness did in the month of June 1812, expressly agree to abide by any adjustment of his disputes with the Rajah of Kolhapore that the British Government might determine; yet nevertheless every obstruction was thrown in the way of the said adjustment and great reluctance evinced to fulfilling it, where-by the execution of the said adjustment was entirely obstructed for one year, and several articles are still unexecuted notwithstanding the daily remonstrances of the British Government, all which is at variance with the 12th article of the treaty of Basseen, and with His Highness's promise. The seven villages of Caugul ought immediately to be given up, the village of Singnoor ought to be given up; Sooltaun Rao Kadam to be released and any other points of the treaty still unexecuted to be fulfilled.

7. Complaints have been repeatedly made against the Sirsoobahdar of Ahmedabad for giving an asylum to Jhuts and other robbers who plunder the territories of the Hon'ble Company and the Gaikwar especially for permitting certain persons of this description to reside in the Pergunnah of Beerumgaum and thence carry on their depredations. This evil has greatly increased since

it was first complained of, and has now got to such a pitch, that the common belief in Guzerat is that the sirsoobehdar has entered into a treaty with the robbers, promising to give them a safe retreat from whence to carry on their depredations in the neighbouring countries. The sirsoobehdar in particular permitted Oomeer Khan Jat to reside at Patree in the Peshwa's dominion, has lately received him with honour and given him a Khillat when it is well known that he is a common freebooter who has repeatedly plundered the Company's territories and who lately set out from Patree in the Peshwa's dominions, sacked the Gaikwar's fort of Withalgarh, killing a Karkoon and 17 men, wounding sixty men and taking forty prisoners with 64 cart loads of plunder, notwithstanding which acts of atrocity, he is believed to be still in the Peshwa's territory. Further news of him has been received since the above was written to the following effect. Oomeer Khan has entered into a close connection with the people of Wagur on the frontier of Cutch, who for this last year have been committing great ravages in the Company's and the Gaikwar territories. Seven hundred of that tribe entered Guzerat at his invitation 25 days ago, and on being pursued by the British officer employed on that frontier, they took refuge in His Highness the Peshwa's fort and village of Geria. The villagers armed to support them and Amir Khan himself joined them with 200 horse after which they proceeded on the road to Patree. This proceeding is utterly inconsistent with common amity, is totally subversive of the peace of Guzerat and being an act of open aggression against the Company and the Gaikwar, is a breach of the 1st article of the treaty of Basscen. Amir Khan and other plunderers ought to be given up, His Highness the Peshwa ought to allow the British troops to enter His Highness's country in pursuit of robbers, and ought to enjoin his subjects to assist them to the utmost.

8. The khowasees of Joorin a place with which the Peshwa has no connection whatever, have rebelled against their master the Jaum of Nawanagar, have broken their engagements with the British Government and the Gaikwar, and have finally gone to war with the said powers. The Peshwa's Sirsoobehdar has from the first encouraged them to rebel, has kept an agent with them till this time, and has continued to afford them open countenance and assistance after they were engaged in open hostilities with His Highness the Peshwa's allies, the British Government and the Gaikwar. He has therefore in fact placed himself in the situation of a public enemy to the allies. Remonstrances were formerly addressed to the Peshwa on the subject of the Sirsoobehdar's interference in the affairs of the Nawanagar, and solemn assurances were given that all such interference should be discontinued, since which time it has been increased tenfold.

The Sirsoobahdar ought to be dismissed and his proceedings disavowed, that it may be made apparent that His Highness has no share in his intrigues. The proofs of the above are contained in an annexed paper.

The territories of Jooria, Balumba and Amrun some time ago formed part of the possession of the Chief of Nawanagar, but afterwards in consequence of a rebellion among his subjects he ceded those places to Suggaram and other khowassees on certain conditions. Those conditions were for a long time punctually fulfilled but of late many of the petty Chiefs in Katiawar have shown disaffection to the ruling authorities in the country and among the rest the Chief of Jooria who has openly rebelled against his superior the Chief of Nawanagar has siezed two of his forts, Kundorna and Purdhuree and laid waste his country. When the settlement of Kathiawar was effected in the year 1807 the British Government undertook to secure the Chief of Jooria in the quiet possession of his lands as long as he conducted himself peaceably and observed his engagements and at the same time a resolution was formed in conjunction with the Chief of Nawanagar, to dispossess him of his country if ever he should fail in his engagements and to reannex it to the territory of Nawanagar. In conformity with these principles every means has been taken by the English and the Gaikwar authorities to restore order by inducing the Jooria Chief to come to some friendly accommodation but as he rejected every effort of this nature, it became necessary to reduce him by force and the Gaikwar sent troops to the assistance of the Nawanagar Chief to act against him. During these transactions many reports were spread, that the disturbances in question were excited by the Peshwa's Sirsoobehdar of Ahmedabad, but at length the fact has been ascertained with astonishment beyond all manner of doubt. It now appears that the Peshwa's officers have employed an agent with the revolted Khowassees and by all possible means have encouraged them in their resistance, in this manner not only throwing the whole country into disorder and confusion but cherishing a spirit of open hostility to the English authorities and to the Gaikwar, thereby committing an open Breach of the treaty of Basseen and pursuing a line of conduct which could only be justified against a declared enemy. The following circumstances will sufficiently establish the ground of the preceding observations. The Officers of the Gaikwar employed against the Khowassees, have intercepted a letter written by Naryne Patail Takty to a Karkoon whom he had dispatched to Jooria named Sunerajee Pant, in which he desires him to give him an account of the affairs of the Khowassies and Sunerajee Pant in a letter which was also intercepted distinctly avows his being concerned in conducting negotiations between the Sirsoobehdar of Ahmedabad and the Arab Jemadars in Jooria. He also states the consultations he had with the principal Jemadar about the best means of attacking the Gaikwar troops, and requests that the Sirsoobehdar of Ahmedabad will send him orders for his guidance. In another intercepted letter from the same Karkoon to the Sirsoobedar he mentions the progress made by the Gaikwar troops in their operations against the Khowassees, desires that assistance may be sent from Ahmedabad and again earnestly requests that orders may be sent to attack the Gaikwar force. One

of the Karkoon's letters contained a letter written by the Arab Jemadar in Kundorna to the Arabs in Jooria describing the operations of the Gaikwar troops at the former fort, and this letter Sunerjee Pant sent to Narayan Rao Takty that he might know the state of affairs and take his measures accordingly. At this time it was well known to Sunerajee Pant that the English were acting with the officers of the Gaikwar, as the letter from the Arab Jemadar distinctly states that Captain Ballantyne who was there on the part of the Resident at Baroda, assisted in superintending the Batteries erected against Kundorna. A third letter likewise has been intercepted from the Arab Jemadar in Purdhurree to Sanerajee Pant, it contains little but serves to show the correspondence maintained by the Peshwa's officers in all quarters with the rebels. It can have been with no other view that a Karkoon was sent to Jooria as the Peshwa possesses no claim or right of any description over the Khowasees in question. Sunerajee Pant was received at Jooria by the Khowass Chief, in the most public manner with a view no doubt of declaring to the whole country the support which he derived from the Peshwa's officers in Ahmedabad. The Karkoon soon after procured a confidential person in the Khowass's employ to be sent to Ahmedabad with 20,000 Rupees, for what purpose remains to be conjectured.

(Sd.) M. ELPHINSTONE,
Resident at Poona.

Letter No. 48.—The letter, a copy of which dated 3rd July 1815, was sent to R. Jenkins, Resident at Nagpur, throws light on the pretensions of the Peshwa to territorial and other claims in Hindustan and Deccan between Mysore and Attock. The Peshwa also desired that the British according to the Treaty should enter into no negotiations with foreign powers without consulting the Peshwa. This is a point which for the first time is made against the British.

FROM—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA

TO—THE EARL OF MOIRA, GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Poona, the 29th June 1815.

Since the date of my last dispatch to your Excellency His Highness the Peshwa unexpectedly left Nasik for this place after a stay of less than a month.

2. No progress was made in the settlement of the Gaikwar's affairs during His Highness's stay at Nasik, and the negotiation regarding them is still suspended until the decision of the Government of Baroda shall be known. Your Excellency will have observed the issue of the remonstrance which I delivered at Nasik by the different letters I addressed on the subject of it to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, and to the Resident at Nagpur.

3. The confirmation of the engagements concluded with the Chiefs of Kathiawar is still a subject of constant discussion. The Peshwa's ministers now declare that His Highness consents to confirm the engagements verbally but is averse to executing any written agreement. As this arrangement, even if entered into with sincerity, would not satisfy the Boomeeas.....acquainted the ministers that unless we are.....assure those Chiefs of the observance of the present.....on His Highness's part we shall be compelled to do so on our own, and thus to guarantee the Boomeeas against any unjust demands from His Highness.

4. I have communicated Your Excellency's sentiments on the subject of the duties levied by the Killahdar of Severndroog and have received assurances that strict orders shall be issued against the practice.

5. The Peshwa's Ministers have lately applied to me more than once for an account of the Peshwa's territory in Bundelkhand that remained after the cession of a country producing 36 lakhs to the Company. I shall address a separate dispatch on this subject to Mr. Adam.

6. They have also renewed the mention of a settlement of their claims on His Highness the Nizam and promised to appoint commissioners without delay to accompany Captain Close to Hyderabad.

7. The Ministers are urgent respecting the Peshwa's claims in Hindustan, and have applied in express terms for our consent to His Highness's granting sunnuds for his possessions of Dhar, Deori and Malhargarh. I have replied by reminding the Ministers that I had been for three years applying for a statement of the Peshwa's claims in Hindustan without obtaining it, that your Excellency was sincerely disposed to maintain His Highness's just rights as far as might be practicable, but that many arrangements were necessary to enable the persons charged with those lands either to obtain or to hold possession of them, and that His Highness instead of making sacrifices for the removal of those difficulties, clogged all his best founded claims with such unreasonable pretensions as made it impossible for us to support them. With respect to the particular cases in point I said, I was not satisfied of the Peshwa's claims to Dhar, that Malhargarh and Dewree certainly belonged to His Highness but that the former was held by a freebooter who would entirely disregard His Highness's sunnud, and Sindhia had lately granted investiture on his own account to one of the claimants to the other; I said I did not mean to defend this usurpation of Sindhia's but to show that His Highness's sending any person to that quarter might lead to important consequences, and ought not to be done without first ascertaining your Lordship's sentiments for which I should apply. The Ministers consented to this and afterwards promised to send me a statement of the Peshwa's other claims in Hindustan.

8. I have only noticed such of the Peshwa's claims as appear to be worthy of serious attention, but the Ministers have at different times within this last month complained of our not restoring to the Peshwa his territories in the Doab of the Jamuna and Ganges, and other places which belonged to him in different parts of India, including the King of Kabul's fort of Attock; they have strenuously asserted His Highness's title to Choute in most parts of India, to a share of the conquests made in last war with Tippoo, and to tribute from the whole of Mysore, to sovereignty over the Rajah of Kolhapore and some other princes, and to the succession to the Rajah of Jaipore and the Nizam in case the families of those princes should become extinct. They even contended for some time that by the treaty of Basseen the British Government was bound to enter into no negotiations with foreign powers without consulting the Peshwa.

9. Notwithstanding these extravagancies the new Ministers are anxious to show a disposition to act cordially with the British Government; but they are often involved in disputes and difficulties with the British authorities and the allies. This is owing to the great extent of the country farmed by them from the Peshwa which brings them into immediate contact with us on all sides; and also to their eagerness for realizing all the Peshwa's dues and the hasty and inconsiderate way in which they set about it. It is to be hoped they will in time see the bad consequences of these proceedings.

10. The discussions I have had with these Ministers respecting pecuniary claims of the Peshwa's on the heirs of the late Khurshidji Seth ran to such a length as to deserve noticing to your Lordship. Those claims were stated to have arisen in the Seth's having farmed portions of the Peshwa's revenue; and, if that fact had been clear, I should not have thought myself called on to interfere, but Peshwa's officers had allowed all proceedings to be carried on in false names and under cover of fictitious transactions to deceive the different Residents at this place, and had involved the state of things in such obscurity that they could not make it apparent when they desired it. They however agreed to submit their claims to the decision of arbitration from among the Vakeels and others little under the.....influence. This course has been adopted, and has I hope relieved me from all further concern in the affair.

11. The Vakeel from the Rajah of Berar mentioned by Mr. Jenkins has not yet reached this Court. I mentioned to the Ministers the strangeness of the pretence on which he was coming, and my confidence that the Peshwa would communicate the real object of his mission.

12. The siege of Dharwar goes on as usual. I have lately had applications from the Peshwa's Ministers to procure the seizure of the wife and children of the Killadar who are in the district

of Soonda and those of some adventurers who have joined the garrison from the same district; they also desired that many Ryots who had fled from Savanore to the Company's territories might be compelled to return. I was obliged to decline complying with these applications, but I agreed to write to the Magistrate of the district to beg that he would do all in his power to prevent assistance being afforded to the rebels by the subjects of the British Government, and that he would not encourage those persons by showing any particular favour to their families.

13. A predatory force has lately assembled in the neighbourhood of Malegaon in Khandesh under a freebooter named Soopkuran whose party was once before dispersed by a British detachment. He has proceeded Eastward in the direction of Burhanpore, and news has been received that his party has increased to 1,500 men and, that after levying contribution on the Peshwa's villages, he has been defeated and desperately wounded by the Vinchoor Jagirdar.

14. The Patwardhans except Chintaman Rao remain encamped on the Godavery. Part of Trimbakjee's force is lower down the same river and part to the North-east of Aurangabad. The Nizam's officers complain much of the irregularities of this detachment. Gokla is still here, and Appa Desai at his Jagir, the Peshwa's positive and repeated orders for his repairing to the frontier having probably been collusive.

15. Your Lordship will have observed by Major Schuyler's reports and my letter to the Secretary in the Political Department that the Ranee of Sawant Wari has endeavoured to elude your Lordship's demands by partially enlarging the agents confined by her while she publicly attributed that act to the intercession of the Desai of Narsee and taken no notice of the apology she is required to make to the British envoy at Goa. I shall shortly do myself the honour of submitting to your Lordship the further measures which I propose to adopt in pursuance of your Lordship's instructions.

16. His Highness the Peshwa intends to leave this for Pandharpur early in next month, and his departure will be followed as usual by an entire suspension of public business for a month. I propose taking that opportunity of making an excursion as far as Colonel Smith's Camp which I was prevented doing from Nasik by the necessity of my returning to this place with the Peshwa; this journey however will involve no extra expense to the Public.

SINDHIA'S AFFAIRS

that I begged to know whether he would wish me to deduct the amount in question from that of the instalment. I desired him to intimate to Sindhia the positive necessity of paying the sum without more delay and I added that I could not consistently with my orders from the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General relax on this point. Atmaram seemed surprized at my declaration, and said that the stipend account and that of a demand founded on damage done by troops were quite distinct and ought not to be mixed, to which I replied that the Maharajah had a demand on me for one Lakh, that I had one upon him for the sum of the account with which I had furnished him, which of course reduced His Highness's demand in a sum equal to my demand.

4. Atmaram then informed me that he had a paper to present to me containing an account of injury done in the Maharajah's district of Bhandere by the Rajah of Chergaon, a chief dependent on Tehree, and a memorandum of certain villages seized by the Bhow of Jhansi from Durjan Saul's territory. It is proper to inform you that the former is the Chief against whom Government is already informed that Sindhia was about to detach Ram Chandra Phaulkeah a few months ago. Atmaram asserted the paper he alluded to, to contain a statement of the loss, occasioned by an incursion of that Chief into Bhandare, in consequence of which it had been intended to send Phaulkeah against him. Atmaram afterwards brought me the paper when I said, that every attention should be paid to it, and the damage if proved satisfactorily would be made good by that Chief, but that it could not be confounded with the other business. Having little communication with the Rajah of Tehree, and as I apprehend there is a regular correspondence between that Chief and the Agent in Bundelkhand, with which officer, I understand the Rajah has a Vakeel, I shall transmit the paper to him. I have in the mean time communicated it to the Vakeel of the Bhow of Jhansi whose name is also introduced on the occasion, and through him to the Rajah of Tehree.

5. With respect to the claim for the villages in the territory of Doorjan Saul said to have been seized by Sheoram Bhow, I have no doubt that it is entirely founded on information received by the Durbar from Baptiste the correctness of the Bhow's explanation on which subject from the enquiries I have made, seems to be correct, and shows that Sindhia can have no right to them. His claim appears to be asserted on the inadmissible ground of the right to every part of Durjan Saul's territory, whether in the possession of that Chief or not, at the period of his late expulsion by Baptiste, which I have of course resisted, admitting his right to any which might have been seized by Sheoram Bhow subsequently to the flight of Durjan Saul and the capture of his capital; and which I said should be given up on its being established that the Bhow of Jhansi had any in his possession under such circumstances. The discussion mentioned in this and the two preceding paragraphs occurred during Sindhia's late excursion to Deogarh.

6. On the day of our return to Gwalior the receipt for the instalment of the stipend and the pensions by the officers of this Government were presented by the Bankers to whom they had been assigned. I granted bills for the latter, on the Resident at Delhi, and I informed the persons who brought the receipts, that I had made a reference to the Maharajah on the subject of the present instalment of His Highness's stipend, and that I waited his reply before I granted the usual bill for its amount. I then communicated what had passed to Sindhia, through Atmaram, saying that in acting as I had done I was influenced by a wish to prevent His Highness's credit from suffering, but that if he did not now discharge the amount I should deduct it from the instalment and pay the balance to the persons to whom the bills had been assigned, in the event of their applying to me again. I added that His Highness's delay, in this affair and the assertion of one of the identical arguments brought forward by Jean Baptiste in his frivolous reasons to invading the territory of Jhansi had the appearance of His Highness's countenancing the unjustifiable proceedings of that officer. Atmaram having communicated this to Sindhia came to me again and said that the Maharajah agreed to pay the sum in cash if on a settlement of accounts, adverting to the abovementioned demands, so much should appear to be due, and that the Banker would attend me for the purpose of receiving a Draft for the lakh which was due on account of the stipend. I repeated in effect what I had before told him, and on his asking me whether the Banker should attend me, I said that I was ready to pay him the balance immediately.

7. Atmaram then said that stopping the stipend was introducing a new order of things hitherto unheard of. The Maharajah he said might make out a very long account of injury sustained on different occasions in his territories by our allies and that if the accounts were always to be kept in this manner he could have no objection. Atmaram said that no complaints had been made of the loss sustained by the march of General Close's army in pursuit of Amir Khan through the Maharajah's districts. I observed that I never before heard that His Highness's territory had at all suffered from General Close's army, and that it was not customary with our troops even to lay waste the country of an enemy much less that of a power in amity with us. I said that the demur of the Maharajah on the present occasion had a very bad appearance and that he had no good cause to use a tone of complaint the proceedings of his own troops having led to the present discussion. I said that His Highness would act as he thought most expedient, but that I could not swerve from what I before said respecting the necessity of a compensation to Bhow of Jhansi.

8. Atmaram at length came to me with a consent on the part of Sindhia to pay the amount required, I accordingly granted a bill on the Collector of Benares for the instalment of a Lakh of Rupees on account of His Highness's stipend, and I received from His Highness a draft on Banking House at Jhansi for 7,761 Rupees which I transmitted on the same day to Sheoram Bhow.

To—J RICHARDSON, ESQUIRE, ACTING AGENT TO
THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, BUNDELKHAND

SIR,

Sindhia's Camp, 25th August 1812.

From my dispatch of the 24th ultimo to the address of the Chief Secretary to Government you will have learnt that I had adopted measures with a view to a reimbursement of the loss sustained in the country of Jhansi by the late attack of the division of Jean Baptiste's troops.

My Daroga, the person whom I deputed for that purpose, has returned to me with detailed accounts of the losses stated to have been incurred. They were made out in his presence, and in that of a person on the part of Sheoram Bhow, of two persons in the service of Jean Baptiste, and of the Aumils and other local officers of the Bhow's Government, and the papers were subsequently submitted to the Bhow himself. The following is an abstract of the account —

At Atchrowny—

Supplies seized	992 8	} 7355 12
Effects of different kinds	1575 12	
Cash	4660 0	
Destruction of crops	127 8	

At Mohareo—

Cash	152 0	} 291 13
Effects plundered	75 13	
Destruction of crops	64 0	

At Pipra, Genaroo Khurgut, Chumrownah and Khoajra—

Plunder from individuals	26 8
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At Pipra, Khar and Gujwaha—

Destruction of crops	69 12	} 87 12
Expenses of Horsemen quartered	18 0	
	<hr/>	
	7761	13

The amount of the damage is much less than what I expected, which is perhaps to be attributed to the early notice which was taken of the business and the consequence return of numerous bonds payable at short periods which had been extorted from individuals and the restitution of much property of different kinds which had been seized. The present account merely gives what remained with the Marhattas after those restitutions.

3 I see no disposition whatever on the part of the Bhow or his subjects to exaggerate. There are several places in which I know Baptiste's troops to have been which are not even mentioned particularly Burdwan, at which place Harroone's detachment was encamped for several days, also Khunneah Dhana. The Bhow declares the present statement to contain the whole of the loss, and seems anxious that its recovery should be urged for sake of future security only. It appears to have been prepared in as impartial a manner as was practicable. Yet, as it is extremely requisite to be as near the truth as possible I am induced to trouble you on the

subject, and I request, under the possible event of your more intimate intercourse with the Sheoram Bhow and of your actual experience in all matters connected with the state of Jhansi having placed you in possession of further information on this subject, that you will be pleased to favour me with it.

I have the honour to be.

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

R. STRACHEY,

Resident.

P.S. For your further information I enclose the original papers which I received from Jhansi, each of which you will observe to have been attested on the spot. I beg to request that you will have the goodness to return them to me.

R. STRACHEY.

To—RICHARD STRACHEY, ESQUIRE, RESIDENT WITH
DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA'S COURT.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, enclosing four detailed statements of the amount of the losses sustained by the Bhow of Jhansi, from the conduct of Jean Baptiste and one collective statement, including the amount of the four detailed ones above noticed.

2. A statement similar, except in amount has been presented to me by the Vakeel of the Bhow as communicated to you in my address of the 25th instant with the most positive assurances of its correctness. You will observe that in the statement transmitted in my letter of the 25th instant, the sum total is stated 7,228-4 and that the amount of the statements enclosed in your address to me of the same date is stated 7,761-13.

3. This obvious difference having attracted my attention, I discovered, that in the addition of the statement delivered to me by the Bhow of Jhansi's Vakeel, and transmitted to you in my letter of the 25th instant, there has been an error. The total amount being correctly 7,758-13. The same error of three rupees that is corrected in the statements transmitted by you exists in that given to me by the Vakeel; which when corrected, makes the amount of the stated losses, as ascertained by you, and as presented to me the same.

4. The smallness of the amount, as I have before observed, is a strong presumption of its truth, but all doubts of the justice of the amount stated, is precluded by the early, and judicious measures adopted, by you, to ascertain the unexaggerated loss; which has been verified before the parties, by the person deputed by you, on the occasion, in the capacity of an umpire.

5. It is not in my power to add authenticity to statements taken under such particular and judicious precautions, and on principles of such impartiality, as those adopted, and practised by you on the present occasion; nor do I conceive it possible, to ascertain a point of this nature, and under the same circumstances with more precision, and exactness, than the statements in question exhibit.

6. The amount of the loss stated is greatly below what I also expected and I am satisfied that its smallness arises from the reasons you state, namely the early notice that was taken of the business, and the consequent return of numerous bond, etc., as observed in the later part of the 2nd para. of your letter now replied to.

7. I have the honour to return the original statements according to your desire, and to state that should any further measures on my part to add authenticity to the demand of the Bhow of Jhansi with respect to his losses, suggest itself to you, I shall with great pleasure comply with your desire.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

R. RICHARDSON,
Agent to the Governor-General.

Banda,
31st August 1812.

FROM—MR. STRACHEY.

TO—MAHARAJA DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

Written 10th September 1812.

Having finished the investigation of the damage committed in the late Aggression on the territory of Jhansi by your Highness's troops belonging the British Brigade of Colonel Jean Baptiste, I have now the honour to transmit enclosed a statement of the same. The detailed account I have put into the hands of Munshi Aezooddeen, who is prepared to communicate it to your Highness. The amount is rupees 7,761-13.

Your Highness will perceive that your early recall of the detachment, while busily occupied in collecting cash and bonds, and in otherwise plundering the inhabitants, has proved very advantageous to your Highness's interests. I have now to submit to your Highness that you will be pleased to discharge the above sum in the way most convenient to you. It is unnecessary to add that its immediate payment will be merely an act of common justice.

(A true copy)

RICHARD STRACHEY,
Resident.

Letter No. 2.—The letter intimates that 12,000 Pindaries of Dost Mohammed had marched in the direction of Bhopal with the intention of taking service with Doulat Rao Sindhia.

The enclosure is also important.

FROM—J. WAUCHOPE, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, BANDA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Banda, the 31st October 1812.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant conveying intelligence respecting the movements of the Pindaries.

2. From the enclosed copy of a letter from Captain Whitehead, Commanding the Port of Lohargaon, you will observe that the whole Pindaree force under Dost Mohammed amounting to 12,000 men, have actually marched in the direction of Bhopal, with the reported intention of entering the service of Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

3. My own intelligence mentions a conference having taken place some days previously to the date of Captain Whitehead's intelligence between Dost Mohammed and Kadir Bux, the latter having come from his cantonment at Jubbulpore on purpose, in which Kadir Bux.....heard to observe that they should make.....projected incursion in concert; that the.....cross the Nerbudda at the Ghat of.....Malwanee, where a person of the name of.....Sahib, apparently a partizan of their own is posted, and plunder the Berar Country on the other side. That they should also make incursion into Jubbulpore and Gurrah Mandla.

4. I beg to be kept informed of further proceedings of these marauders that come to your knowledge.

TO—J. WAUCHOPE, ESQUIRE, AGENT TO THE RT. HON'BLE THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters, under date the 24th and 26th instant, and have to acquaint you that my Hirewarrah who was sent to reside with his relations in the Pindari Camp, has returned to me with information that the whole of the Pindaries under Dost Mohammed amounting to 12,000 Horsemen, have quitted Bagroade and proceeded towards Bhopal and that it is currently reported, and believed that Sindhia has engaged these marauders in his service.

2 The intelligence brought by this opportunity has been taken in Hindoovi, in my presence, and a copy is transmitted herewith for your information

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

THOMAS WHITEHEAD, Capt.,

Commanding at Lohargaon.

Lohargaon

20th October 1812

P.S It may be necessary to inform you that substance of all intelligence on this subject is regularly forwarded to Colonel Martindell Commanding at Bundelkhand, by the same dawk which conveys the letters to the Agent to the Right Hon'ble the Governor General.

(A true copy)

J WAUCHOPE,

Agent to the Governor-General.

Letter No 3.—The letter conveys information about the efforts between Sindhia and Holkar to adjust their territorial and other interests by means of negotiation. Bapoo Sindhia had entered the territory of Bundi to demand arrears of tribute. Jean Baptiste was collecting a strong detachment on the frontier towards Jaipur.

FROM—RICHARD STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, the 8th January 1813.

For the past few weeks there has been much confusion in the affairs of this Durbar owing principally to the decline of Gokul Paruk's influence in Sindhia's Councils which may be chiefly attributed to the deficiency of Funds for the payment of the Army, but he still preserves his situation to which a considerable party is looking in the hope of its being filled by Anajee, and this point, apparently of so much importance to the Government, remains in a state of uncertainty

2 Little progress has lately been made in the siege of Bhopal, before which Juggoo Bapoo and Sadik Ali Khan still continue. Notwithstanding what was stated in my last dispatch to your Lordship I have been obliged to call upon Sindhia again for the enforcement of his orders respecting the conduct of Juggoo Bapoo's Army towards the possessions of the Vinchoor Jagirdar The

Maharajah a few days ago in a personal conference promised me that he would dispatch a Huzooreah expressly for the purpose, but I fear that those Districts have already suffered much from the extortions of that Army.

3. The Durbar has frequently been engaged of late in discussions with Holkar's Vakeels. The latter are anxious to depart having experienced the usual delays of this Government and they find that they are not likely to effect any thing to real advantage to the interests of Holkar by postponing their departure; they have received their Khelats of Leave and their negotiation is little more advanced than it was a week after their arrival. Having received orders from Holkar to expedite their return they have moved from the ground which they hitherto occupied as a sign of the commencement of their march. As far as I am informed the principal points agitated by the Vakeels were the following.

1st. A settlement of the territories in which both states are concerned. Regulations providing against the officers of one state interfering with the operations of those of the other, chiefly with reference to the Soobahdars of their respective possessions in Malwa and Mewar and that both states should abstain from aggressions on the territory of each other.

2nd. A settlement of Holkar's claims on certain countries which have been conquered by Sindhia.

3rd. An arrangement regarding the Pindaries, either by an amicable adjustment of Jaidad, or by their punishment by force of arms, taking into consideration the possibility of their being of service to both parties.

4th. The burden of Amir Khan being very heavy an aid in money from Sindhia, or effectual support in accomplishing his dismissal.

5th. A general defensive alliance and an acknowledgement of union of interests in the houses of Sindhia and Holkar, and Sindhia's aid in endeavouring to obtain a Khelat of investiture from the Peshwa for Malhar Rao.

4. In the discussion of the last proposition I have been informed that allusions were made by the Vakeels to the possibility of opposition to the British Power with a view of sounding the temper of Sindhia, to which the Maharajah appears to have given little attention and evasive replies. Sindhia is desirous that the Vakeels should not return dissatisfied, and promises to agree to their proposals generally, but he continues, according to the practice of this Durbar to take every opportunity of postponing discussion. It is probable that Atmaram Baunkra, the Mission of whom to Holkar has been long in contemplation, will accompany the Vakeels on their return to Holkar's Camp.

5. Bapoo Sindhia has entered the territory of Bundi. Arrears of tribute are demanded from Rajah Bishan Singh the Chief of that petty state, near whose capital Bapoo Sindhia is now encamped.

6. Colonel Jean Baptiste remains at Soopoor. A detachment of his troops is again harrassing Saugur. Durjan Saul Grasseah died about a month ago, in the territory of Raghogarh.

7. Baptiste is collecting a strong Detachment on the frontier towards Jaipore. He has made a demand on the Rajah of Kerowly who has deputed a Vakeel to Sindhia as well as to Baptiste in the hope of averting the menaced attack of the latter. Baptiste's present situation together with the circumstance of Bapoo Sindhia's advance to Bundi have much the appearance of a design against Jaipore, and by the Jaipore papers Baptiste's preparations have attracted the attention of that Court. Should they invade Jaipore, the unfortunate situation of that state will have arrived at a deplorable extremity, and its annihilation as a power, by the different Bands of plundering troops which are bringing destruction upon it in every direction may be contemplated. It is almost superfluous to add that Bapoo Sindhia and Baptiste cannot be reckoned inferior in acts of unwarrantable violence, to Amir Khan and the other Bandittees who infest the dominions of that state.

8. Mr Wellesley rejoined the Residency on the 23rd ultimo.

Letter No. 4.—The letter conveys the information that Gokal Parakh was quitting the first place in the Sindhia's Council and that Annaji was going to take his place. Bapu Sindhia had levied contributions from Bundi and had retired. Amir Khan with bands of predatory armies are in the territory of Jaipur. Her Highness Bala Bai had started on a pilgrimage to Allahabad, Benares and Gaya.

FROM—RICHARD STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, the 18th January 1813.

In my last dispatch to your Lordship I adverted to the probability of a change in the Ministry of Maharajah Dowlat Rao Sindhia. It now seems settled that Gokul Paruk shall retire and that the first place in His Highness's Councils shall be occupied by Annaji. Gokul Paruk has received his Khelat of leave from Dowlat Rao Sindhia preparatory to a pilgrimage to Allahabad and Muttra, on which occasion the Maharajah treated him with much apparent favour and distinction. The conduct of Sindhia towards Gokul Paruk shows a disposition eventually to reinstate that Minister, whose absence from court is given out as intended to be merely temporary.

2. Bapoo Sindhia having levied a contribution from the Rajah of Bundi retired from his territory. A detachment of Baptiste's troops which for some time openly threatened an attack on

Kerowly have entered the Jaipore territory and are now in the district of Ooneara. They lately made an incursion into Bundi and plundered some villages belonging to that state. Baptiste himself remains at Soopoor.

3. Amir Khan and the predatory armies which co-operate with him continue in the territory of Jaipore, the Government of which lately agreed to pay him a contribution, the terms of which are as yet unadjusted, and they persist in their harrassing warfare in that country. Lal Singh is besieging Madhoorajepore to the south-west ward of Jaipore, and Amir Khan is within two marches of that city to the West of it.

4. Bala Bai has announced to me her intention of proceeding on a pilgrimage to Allahabad, Benares, and Gaya, and Her Highness has pitched her tents out of Camp in commencement of her journey. I shall consider it my duty to address the Agents at Benares and in Bundelkhand, the Magistrates of Cawnpore and Allahabad, and the Commanding Officers at Kalpee and Allahabad suggesting to them the propriety of every attention being paid by them to Her Highness in her progress through their respective districts.

5. The Division of the Troops of this Army, which have for some time been attached to the Soobahdar of Gwalior, have during the last few weeks been employed against the Banditti who infest this province, and their operations have been attended with considerable success.

Letter No. 5.—The letter contains a variety of information regarding the movements and activities of the Sindhia's officers Lal Khan and Baptiste, of Amir Khan and of Holkar.

FROM—RICHARD STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, 18th February 1813.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Dowlat Rao Sindhia crossed the Chumbul yesterday, and entered his own territory. His Highness proceeded to Bhind this day. Since leaving Singeerampur the Maharajah has taken every opportunity of conveying to me both by message and personally, with repeated expressions of satisfaction at his late pilgrimage, his acknowledgment of the friendship of the British Government, in the comfort and facility which he experienced during the journey.

2. I have received an account by Hircarrahs from Dost Mohammed's Camp stating that the Maharajah's officer Lal Khan, who was attached against Appakundra, suddenly attacked that Pindarra, who it is said made an indifferent resistance, and that

his baggage and Guns fell into the hands of Lal Khan. It is added that the immediate consequence of this affair was the capture of Dost Mohammed's principal posts, the latter is stated to have lost not above 25 men in the action, after which he fled to Pittharee a place about fifteen miles to the Northward of Rahatgarh.

3 The attack of Bhopal continues to be carried on by Juggoo Bapu and Sadik Ali Khan. The siege has slackened since the late repulse which was sustained by the Besiegers, who are said to be waiting for reinforcements which are expected to join them from Hoshangabad.

4 Baptiste's officer Harroone remains in the Jaipore territory. He has now invested Sowar, having moved thither from Esurda, after levying a contribution on the Chief of that place.

5 Amir Khan has moved from the position which he occupied near the city of Jaipore and is harrassing the country with exactions. By the last accounts he was at Atcherowl. No final arrangement of the contribution, which is still under discussion through the Agency of Bulram Beas, the Jodhpore Vakeel at the Court of Jaipore has been concluded.

6 Holkar remains on the same ground which he has occupied many months. His Vakeels returned to him from Gwalior, accompanied by Atmaram Baunkra on Sindhia's part, before the Maharajah commenced his march from that Camp on his pilgrimage.

7 It seems likely that Dowlat Rao Sindhia will halt at this place for some days.

Letter No 6.—The letter mentions the whereabouts of the troops of Baptiste and of the Pindaries. It also intimates that Annaji Bhaskar who had been appointed Prime Minister to Sindhia had not been confirmed in his appointment.

FROM—RICHARD STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT HON'BLE LORD MINTO GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, Gwalior, the 7th March 1813.

Dowlat Rao Sindhia returned to his camp near Gwalior the day before yesterday. After the Maharajah had left Gohud, the principal reason of his not proceeding hither direct, was his wish to enter his camp on what he was informed to be a lucky hour.

2 An attack was lately made by the sons of the late Rajah of Garrah Kota on Baptiste's troops which were stationed at that Fortress, in which the latter suffered some loss. The news of this affair reached Baptiste at Subbulgarh, which he immediately left and proceeded rapidly towards Garrah Kota, having ordered to that quarter part of the force with which he was threatening an attack near which his officer Harroone remains with a considerable detachment. The latter lately had a meeting in

the Jaipore territory with Mohammed Shah Khan from whom he obtained a promise of support in the event of his finding it necessary to enforce his demands on Kerowly. The departure of Baptiste renders the realization of a contribution from that state less likely than before. Whether Mohammed Shah Khan will adhere to his promise of co-operation with Baptiste's officer is very uncertain.

3. The Pindaries have lately been very active. Two considerable bodies appear now to be south of the Nerbudda, one of which has done much mischief in some of Dowlat Rao Sindhia's possessions in the Deccan. The other is said to be in the Nagpur territories.

4. Lal Khan was deterred from proceeding on the object of his march to the district of Rahatgarh by the formidable appearance of Dost Mohammed Pindarraha who was seeking an opportunity to attack him, and Lal Khan has now joined Juggoo Bapu before Bhopal. The defence of that place seems to be well conducted by Vazeer Mohammed Khan and although the besieging Army have been before it several months, and it is not considered to be a place of great strength, little impression has been made. By the last accounts preparations were making for another effort to assault it.

5. Dowlat Rao Sindhia's Ministry is at present in a very unsettled state. Anajee Bhaskar is the nominal head, but although the Maharajah treats him with much favour, he has not positively fixed on him as permanent minister; consequently, Anajee does not possess that weight and power in the state necessary to the general control of the administration, and it seems not unlikely that Sindhia will recall Gokul Paruk. The latter who intended to go no further than Allahabad has prolonged his pilgrimage to Benares and it is probable that he will also extend it to Gaya.

Letter No. 7.—The letter reports that Baptiste's troops had failed to take Garha Kotah and therefore Baptiste was preparing for another attack. Holkar is reported to have agreed to help Wazir Mohammed Khan of Bhopal in warding off the attacks on Bhopal. The Rajah of Jaipur had agreed to pay Rupees twelve lakhs to Amir Khan if he completely withdrew from his territories.

FROM—RICHARD STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, 23rd March 1813.

Since I had last the honour to address Your Lordship the fortress of Garraha Kota has been occupied by the sons of the late Rajah. Baptiste's troops who were stationed there found themselves unable to resist the attack, and their provisions being nearly

exhausted they surrendered the place and were allowed to depart. They then proceeded to join Baptiste who was at the time on his march to their relief.

2. Baptiste is now near Saugor where he is collecting his Army avowedly for the purpose of recovering Garrah Kota. He has ordered his detachment in Kerowly to join him. The contribution from the Chief of that place is said to have been settled at 65,000 Rupees.

3. Holkar seems to have agreed to the request of Vazir Mohammed Khan for aid against the formidable attack which is now carrying against him. Some time has elapsed since..... were made to Sindhia in favour of that Chief by Holkar but they received little attention and the latter shows every disposition to oppose even by force the conquest of Bhopal. Vazir Mohammed Khan has given out his intention of shortly erecting the standard of Holkar, a force belonging to whom has moved towards Bhopal, and it is said that his officers have received orders to take every opportunity of laying waste Sindhia's territory.

4. Amir Khan is urgent for the support of Vazir Mohammed Khan. He is using his influence at the Durbar of Holkar with that view and such of the Pindaries as are believed to be at all attached to the interests of Holkar have at his suggestion, been called on to co-operate in his force.

5. Atmaram Baunkara, Sindhia's envoy who accompanied the late mission to this Court on their return to Holkar's Camp, seems about to leave it. Sindhia wished to retain him at that Durbar and to associate him in Holkar's Ministry but he has been distinctly told that his services and advice are not required and his early return hither has been recommended. Accounts just received from Holkar's Camp state his having taken leave.

6. Holkar's apparent disposition to support the cause of Vazir Mohammed Khan perhaps originates in the apprehension that Bhopal might fall into Sindhia's or the Bhonsla's hands, and in a wish to obtain for himself. It would be difficult to view the conduct of that court as founded on a disinterested motive of relief to the state of Bhopal.

7. Several of the Chiefs of Jaipore have lately associated for the purpose, it is said, of taking upon themselves the settlement of Amir Khan's claims, and having got rid of him, of endeavouring to effect an arrangement of the distracted state of that country. The Rajah declares them to be Rebels protesting against their illegal assumption of authority in affairs which depend on him alone. He appears to have agreed to pay a contribution of 12 lakhs of Rupees to Amir Khan on the condition that he shall withdraw from his dominions, the latter at the same time is in correspondence with the confederated Chiefs who are assembled one march from Jaipore.

8. The Jaipore newspapers state the Rajah to have dispatched Vakeels to Dowlat Rao Sindhia and to the Rajah of Jodhpore. His distresses must be urgent indeed if they have obliged him to seek a connection with this state. Should the pressure of difficulties or the effects of a shortsighted policy lead him to an overture of the kind, and it were cordially accepted by Sindhia, no step would in my opinion be more likely to lay the foundation of the exclusive aggrandizement of his new auxiliary, and the ruin of himself.

9. A large body of Pindaries who made an incursion into the Deccan to the southward of the Tapti lately recrossed the Nerbudda. Part of them have arrived at Sutwass, reports from whence represent them to have obtained a considerable booty in their expedition. A body of Pindaries, under Wausil Khan, a few days ago rejoined Dost Mohammed from a similar inroad to the territory of Nagpur.

Letter No. 8.—The letter refers to the possibility of Hindu Rao Ghatgay, the son of the late Sarji Rao Ghatgay, and brother of Rani Baija Bai being appointed as Prime Minister to Sindhia. The siege of Bhopal was going on and the so was the siege of Garha Kota. Lal Khan was ravaging Jaipur territory.

FROM—RICHARD STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.
TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, Gwalior, 14th April 1813.

Dowlat Rao Sindhia has of late been rather embarrassed in his choice of a person for the office of his Prime Minister. Anajee was for some time before as well as subsequently to Gokul Parauk's departure was looked upon as the most likely person to fill that station, but he has disappointed the Maharajah's expectations and Sindhia has now written to Gokul Paruk desiring him to return. Sindhia has also invited from Poona Hindu Rao Ghatka, the son of the late Surjee Rao and brother of Her Highness Baeza Bai, making him offers of Jagirs, and in the intention, it is supposed by some, of nominating him to that situation.

2. Of the general irregularity in the.....of this Government, Your Lordship is already aware of the present defect in the administration, the.....is naturally increased. This circumstance and.....control in every Department of the Government cannot fail to render this power a turbulent neighbour to those states, who from their situation must occasionally be liable to feel the effects of evils found in Sindhia's contiguous districts, the management of which is so deficient in system, both in concerns of a Military and a Civil nature. I feel it my duty to advert to this point because in its continuance and in what I conceive to be possible, the progressive increase of disorder, considerable inconvenience might eventually be felt by the British Government in

the necessary interference against the licentious encroachments of the officers of this state, who though they act nominally under the orders of Sindhia, are guilty of various unwarrantable acts in spite of his injunctions to the contrary. And when the affair has passed, Sindhia thinks it of a matter of little moment whether his officer has conducted the service according to the rules of justice, or otherwise; whether towards his own subjects, or those of his neighbours.

3. The siege of Bhopal still continues. The town seems much distressed for provisions, but Vazir Mohammed Khan shows every disposition of holding out as long as possible. The hostile measures threatened by Holkar against Sindhia with a view to the relief of that place have been relaxed, and the orders which were issued to his principal chiefs have been revoked. But a force of Holkar's levied a contribution in Mundessore, and a body of his troops advanced to the neighbourhood of Shoojawalpore, having committed some ravages in Sindhia's districts near Ujjain. Friendly communications have since passed between Sindhia and Holkar, and it now seems likely that the latter will not act openly in favour of Vazir Mohammed Khan.

4. While Baptiste is besieging Garrah Kota some relations of the Rajah of Chanderee have taken the opportunity to raise disturbances in the country which was conquered by Baptiste last year from that chief, and from Durjan Saul. The Chiefs of Garrah Kota are making great exertions to.....Baptiste who has hitherto made little progress in the siege of that fortress.

5. Row Chand Singh, the Rajah of Jaipore's General, had lately some successful skirmishes with Lal Singh. Amir Khan seemed to think the situation of the latter so precarious, that he made a rapid march to succour him; in the meantime however Row Chand Singh was ordered by the Rajah to return. Amir Khan and Mohammed Shah Khan are now besieging Dhoodoo, a fort about 35 miles south-west of Jaipore.

Letter No. 9.—The letter enumerates the unwarrantable proceedings of the troops and officers of the Sindhia in Jhansi and Duttea territories. It also adverts to the intention of Bhagwant Rao, an officer of Sindhia, to support Shripat Rao's designs on the jagir of the Nawab Nuseer-ud-Doula. The Resident remonstrated with the Sindhia against these proceedings and intended to demand reparations with the approval of the Governor-General.

FROM—RICHARD STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH SINDHIA.
TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, Gwalior, 6th May 1813.

A short time ago I received a heavy complaint from the Bhow of Jhansi against a Detachment of Dowlat Rao Sindhia's troops, which are attached to the Soobhahdar of Gwalior, stating that

officer's Deputy, Bhagwant Rao, to have entered his territory where he was engaged in committing outrages of a variety of kinds.

2. On my representing to the Maharajah the improper conduct of his officer, His Highness issued an order directing him to desist from further violence, and to retire within his own frontier. During the few days, however, which the operation of the order required, a sum of.....had been extorted, under the pretence of a.....up by one of Sindhia's neighbouring Aumils.foundation of that plea is entirely denied on the part of the Bhow of Jhansi. At all events Bhagwant Rao's attack was very unjustifiable, setting aside the circumstances of violence and oppression by which it was accompanied.

3. The same Detachment was afterwards guilty of excesses of a perhaps more aggravated nature in the territory of the Nana of Kalpee, many of whose villages were plundered and various other shameful depredations committed. I obtained from Sindhia an order to Bhagwant Rao prohibiting all aggression on the Nana's country, which had the effect of checking his ravages. But in addition to the aggressions of the troops under Bhagwant Rao's immediate command, others of a similar nature have lately been committed in the Nana's country by a Detachment which was sent against a place belonging to the Rajah of Sumter by the Maharajah's Komausdar of Bhandere.

4. Being informed by the Nana's Vakeel of an intention on the part of Bhagwant Rao to support Sireepat Rao's designs on the Jagir of the Nabob Nusseeroo Dowlah, I took care that the last-mentioned order should contain a prohibition against his interference in that quarter. The report of his intention to support Sireepat Rao was afterwards confirmed by communications which I received from the Agent in Bundelkhand.

5. A similar outrage was at this time complained of by the Rajah of Dutteeah which was committed by Bhagwant Rao's detachment in some villages belonging to the Rajah, within one march of Koonch.

6. I now requested Sindhia to furnish me with orders addressed to the Soobahdar's Naib directing him to make amends for the mischief of which he had been guilty in the different quarters, and I distinctly informed the Maharajah that he would be held responsible for the amount of the damage. No satisfactory reply being given, I continued to press this point on the attention of the Durbar, till the Maharajah sent for my Munshi, who accordingly attended him.

7. No Minister but Moroba Hari was present. Sindhia informed Munshi Aezoodin that, with regard to what I had communicated through Atmaram respecting the loss which had been occasioned by his troops, the matter should be investigated. He then said that the Nana of Kalpee had allowed a rebel whose fort

the Soobahdar's Detachment were then attacking, to escape from Jaloan to which he had been traced, although he had desired the Nana to seize him.

My reply to this was, that I knew nothing of Maharaja's application to the Nana, but that I had myself, at His Highness's request, desired the Vakeel of that Chief to request his master to endeavour to apprehend the rebel, in answer to which I had heard from the Nana that the man was not at Jaloan, through which place he had passed before he received my communication.

8. The next subject on which the Maharajah spoke to the Munshi was his anxiety for the recovery of the loss sustained by a Robbery in the town of Gwalior, it being asserted that the robbers were traced across the Chumbul to the territory of Rana Kirat Singh, who, as well as his officers, was reported to have received a share of the stolen property.

My reply to this was that no proof of the assertions had been adduced; and I have transmitted to Sindhia a detailed answer which I lately received from the.....on the subject.

9. The next point brought forward by Sindhia was a revival of his claims against Dutteah, but the Maharajah asserted them in so extraordinary a way that I could not avoid noticing it in a particular manner.

10. Sindhia said that if his troops had foraged at Nuddee Ka Gaon he was aware of nothing that gave us a right to complain. Moraba Hari observed there was no great harm in collecting wood, leaves, and grass, etc. The Munshi replied that what I had complained of was indiscriminate plunder under the name of foraging, from which also I had required they should desist. Sindhia said that the place which was now in the hands of the Rajah of Dutteah, where the Soobahdar's troops had foraged, belonged to him, and that he had of course a right to permit his troops to supply themselves in his own territory. That all Kutchwaghaur (a Division of this province) was his, and that Nuddee Ka Gaon was by rights included in it.

11. On the Munshi's return from the Durbar I sent for Atma-ram and gave him my replies to Sindhia's communications as I have stated; but with respect to his declaration regarding the Dutteah territory I desired him to inform the Maharajah that I had hoped His Highness had by this time seen the fallacy of his claims in that quarter and had accordingly dropped them, instead of which, I had now, with infinite surprise, received an intimation from him from the tenor of which I could only understand that he had an intention of authorizing further aggression on Dutteah and I desired him to acquaint the Maharajah that I wished it to be clearly understood that no outrage of the kind could possibly be submitted to by the British Government.

12. Many of the old arguments of the Durbar were urged by Atmaram in favour of the claim, I replied in terms to detail which would be a repetition of what has already been submitted to Your Lordship. I particularly reminded him that what was settled at the date of the Treaty would remain so, that at that period Nuddee Ka Gaon did not belong to Gwalior, and that the place was never in the possession of the Maharajah. I said it appeared to me that His Highness's Ministers were leading him into inextricable difficulties that the continued wanton aggression of his troops could only tend to his own loss, and I expressed my surprise at his not seeing his interest in checking it effectually. I repeated my desire that Atmaram would inform His Highness that his claims against Dutteah were utterly inadmissible, and that any new aggression on that territory, after what His Highness had been pleased to say, could not be considered as a casual visit of his troops merely in search of forage.

13. In addition to this verbal communication, to give no room for doubt or misunderstanding, I addressed a letter to Sindhia. I transmitted it by the Munshi whom I desired to endeavour to impress strongly on Sindhia's mind the necessity of his putting a stop to the unwarrantable proceedings of his troops, and of his making reparation for the late injuries. I directed him to inform the Maharajah of my intention to send a Commission to the spot to ascertain the actual extent of the mischief, and, that the business might be settled the more to His Highness's satisfaction, to propose that some person should also be sent on His Highness's part. I have the honour to enclose a copy in English and Persian of my letter to Sindhia.

14. The Maharajah's reply was very evasive. After perusing the letter and receiving the message, he promised that there should be no further cause of complaint and he desired the Munshi to tell me that he would speak to me personally on the subject of my present communication. The Munshi told him I was very urgent, and that I could not admit of the usual delays; to which the Maharajah said he would positively confer with me in one or two days. This was on the 25th ultimo.

15. During the period which has elapsed since that date I have frequently reminded Sindhia, through Atmaram, that I was induced to suspend my measures for the investigation of the damage in the hope of his deputing somebody to accompany the person whom I had already told him I should send for that purpose to the spot where the aggressions had occurred. The replies which I have received are so full of subterfuge and procrastinations, and having on the 2nd instant received the account of another incursion of some horse belonging to Bhagwant Rao into the Dutteah territory, I have informed His Highness that the case will not admit of further delay. I cannot but regard this evasive conduct of Sindhia on my late communications as an attempt, however clumsy, to ward off the measures of redress which I have declared it to be my intention to adopt.

16. As soon as I shall have ascertained as far as may be practicable the real extent of the injuries committed by Sindhia's troops, I shall under Your Lordship's sanction, lay a statement of it before the Maharajah, and shall require reimbursement of the amount. Pecuniary compensation cannot be deemed a full satisfaction for arbitrary and cruel violence perpetrated in countries under our protection. I trust, however, that insisting on a full and just remuneration to the sufferers may tend to induce this Government to more effectual exertions for the preservation, as far as depends on them, of the tranquillity of the frontier, and that it will at least demonstrate to Sindhia the policy of restraining the violence of his subjects towards states connected with the British Government.

FROM—MR. STRACHEY.

TO—DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

Written, 25th April 1813.

Your Highness having been pleased to revive your old claims against the Rajah of Dutteah in the message which you communicated to me through Munshi Aezooddeen, it is necessary that my reply should be such as may not be liable to misconstruction, and particularly from the extraordinary manner in which your claims have now been asserted.

The declaration respecting part of the Dutteah territory which you were pleased to make in reply to my representations regarding the late violence of your troops in the countries of Jhansi, of Dutteah and of the Nana of Kalpee may possibly be a hasty remark, according to which you have no intention of acting; yet it is of that nature which demands from me an expression of my earnest hope that Your Highness will pause before you determine on so unwarrantable a measure.

Upon the grounds before stated to your Highness, which, from the length of time that has elapsed since you last mentioned your demands, I trusted had convinced you of the inutility of urging claims in support of which you have throughout failed to produce anything satisfactory, and which I must adopt from what is known it seems to be utterly impossible for you to do. On those grounds I must once more inform you, and I beg to impress it on your Highness's mind, that to admit such claims against the Rajah of Dutteah would be inconsistent with the ties by which that Chief is connected with the British Government. After this it must naturally occur to you that the British Government will not permit its ally to be unjustly molested in any way, and your present declaration compels me to apprise your Highness that future aggression of your troops on the Dutteah territory cannot be regarded as an accidental incursion.

In the execution of the most pleasing part of my duty at your Highness's Court, the preservation of friendship and good understanding between the two states, I have always been willing to regard the acts of violence committed by your troops on the frontier of Bundelkhand as unpremeditated, though the natural consequence of the habitual defects which I knew to exist in your Military as well as in your Civil Administration. I have regarded them with consideration and forbearance having generally found a readiness on your Highness's part in endeavouring to put a stop to those baneful effects of a lamentable want of system. But, if wilful aggression should receive the countenance of your Highness, it would be difficult to look for a remedy.

Although I verbally communicated to your Highness, by Atmaram Pandit, the purport of my present address, I have thought it right, with a view to obviate all mistakes, to commit it to writing.

(A true copy)

RICHARD STRACHEY,
Resident.

Letter No. 10.—The letter conveys the instruction that Lt. Col. Palmer had been given to proceed forward for the protection of the country as far as Nadee Ka Gaon, against the depredations of the Sindhia's troops.

FROM—J. ADAM, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

TO—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

Fort William, 23rd July 1813.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 6th instant reporting the substance of your correspondence with Atma Ram Pandit on the subject of the licentious proceedings of Sindhia's Troops, in the territories of the allies and dependents of the British Government.

2. The Governor-General in Council is disposed to infer from the tenor of that dispatch that some impression has been made on Sindhia by the remonstrances which have lately been addressed to him by the Governor-General and by yourself and that measures will be taken as far as the distracted and inefficient state of the Maharajah's administration will admit, for preventing the recurrence of proceedings so justly offensive to this Government.

3. You are already in possession of the sentiments of government relative to the measure of advancing a force to Nuddee Ka Gaon and His Lordship hopes that the instructions which were dispatched for countermanding its advance may have reached Lieutenant Colonel Palmer before he marched from Koonch.

4. If he should actually have advanced before the receipt of those orders, it will of course be proper that he should maintain his post at Naddee Ka Gaon until the retreat of any bodies of Sindhia's troops which may be in that vicinity shall evince the effect of his advance, and enable him to withdraw without any respect compromising the dignity of Government, but you will understand it to be the wish of the Governor-General in Council that that measure should be adopted as soon as it can be done consistently with the consideration just stated.

5. While he remains in advance Lieutenant Colonel Palmer will of course repel any attempt of Sindhia's troops to forage, or plunder in the districts for the protection of which the detachment was formed but it will not be proper for him to proceed in any case beyond the frontier of the protected territory.

6. A copy of this dispatch will be transmitted to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, who will be requested to instruct Lieutenant Colonel Palmer accordingly, but it will be expedient that you should make a similar communication to that officer to provide against any accidental delay in the receipt of His Excellency's instructions.

Letter No. 11.—The letter refers to the reluctance of the Sindhia to attend to public affairs pending the arrival of Gokul Parakh, the desertions in his army before Bhopal, the agreement between the Jodhpur Durbar and Amir Khan about certain payments and the movements of the Holkar.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, 25th July 1813.

Since the date of my last dispatch to your Lordship the affairs of this Court have experienced hardly any variation. The same unsettled state of the Government continues, and Dowlat Rao Sindhia, accustomed to delay on all occasions, has taken the opportunity of the approaching return of Gokul Paruk to suspend the transaction of all business until the arrival of that Minister. For the last fortnight Sindhia has rarely appeared out of his private Apartments, except for a short time for the amusement of hearing music or looking at Wrestlers. He has studiously turned his attention from public affairs, and the clamours of the troops have been appeased by assurances that their claims will be decided on Gokul Paruk's arrival.

2. From the same causes Dowlat Rao Sindhia has avoided the termination of the discussion respecting the late violence of his troops on the frontier. He has continued to defer receiving a visit

from me from day to day, by all sorts of excuses. At length Atinaram Pandit, who for some days past has not been able to get access to Sindhia, has confessed to me that he sees no probability of the Maharajah's being brought to agree to anything before the return of Gokul Paruk. Paruk is now expected to reach Camp in the course of a few days, and the chief persons of his party, as well as others have this day set out to meet him and conduct him to Camp. On no former occasion has Dowlat Rao Sindhia so withdrawn himself from his public occupations. He seems sensible of the inefficient state of his Government, and expresses the greatest anxiety for Gokul Paruk's arrival.

3. Since the advance of Lieutenant Colonel Palmer's detachment to Naddi Ka Gaon, the incursions of the troops of the Soobahdar of Gwalior beyond the frontier have not been renewed.

4. Great desertions have taken place from the Army before Bhopal now under Bala Bhow. Active operations have ceased; and Sadik Ali Khan, the Nagpur Commander, broke up from before it and marched towards Hoshangabad on the 15th instant.

5. The accounts from Jaipore state that Court to have agreed to a contribution of Twelve Lakhs of Rupees, to be paid to Amir Khan. The arrangement seems to have been settled chiefly by the mediation of Jodhpore.

6. Holkar is now encamped a short distance from Sheaumgur, about thirty miles to the Southward of his former position near Bhaunpoora.

Letter No. 12.—The letter refers to the difficulties of Sindhia to find money to pay the arrears of his troops. Gokul Parakh is not capable of meeting the demands for money. The Pindaries were ravaging the territories of the Sindhia south of the Nerbudda. Jean Baptiste desisted from attacking Malhar Garh by the direction of the Sindhia. Amir Khan after settling with Jaipur has marched into the territory of Bundi.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE LORD MINTO, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, Gwalior, 15th November 1813.

Dowlat Rao Sindhia, having found the arrears of pay said to be due to his troops particularly the Sillahdar Cavalry, to amount to a very large sum, while the demands of the most of the Commanders were believed much to exceed the actual amount, some settlement became necessary, as well to the efficiency of the troops as the tranquillity of the camp, which was much disturbed by the ferment they had raised.

2. His Highness accordingly has lately been much occupied in endeavouring to effect an arrangement with that view. The Maharaja exclusive of his partiality to Gokul Paruk was aware that his command of money and his influence with the Bankers was important but Paruk did not prove(?) to possess sufficient weight to meet the demands(?) of the troops. Sindhia accordingly had it in contemplation to place Gopal Rao Bhow at the head of(?) affairs, retaining Gokul Paruk as his Associate in(?) power. But Gopal Rao Bhow professed himself averse to take so responsible a situation unless Gokul Paruk would continue to provide Funds and consent to answer such drafts as he might have occasion to make. The matter is therefore still unsettled, but the Sillahdar Chiefs have been persuaded to suspend pressing their claims for arrears under assurances that their demands will soon be finally adjusted. That promise has been so frequently made, and broken, that their being so easily pacified is a matter of some surprize. This relates exclusively to the troops present with the Maharajah, and detached from this Army on service in the province of Gwalior. Those employed at a distance receive no pay from hence, and at present depend for their support on the Chiefs under whom they act, and on plunder.

3. The Pindaries have executed the threat which they held forth against the Maharajah's territory on his resumption of the Grant which he had made to Cheetoo. Many of His Highness's possessions to the Southward of the Nerbudda have been laid waste, chiefly by that Pindara and his adherents, a large body of whom are still carrying on their depredations in the Deccan. Dost Mohammed by the last accounts was near Seronge. On his march thither he plundered and burnt about thirty villages of that district, and the adjoining ones belonging to Sindhia. A part of his force which had moved to the Southward had halted at Raiscen, where it was believed they would be joined by a body of Pindaries of Karim's party.

4. Jean Baptiste in consequence of orders which were issued to him by Dowlat Rao Sindhia desisted from his attack on Mulhar-garh which place remains in the possession of Servar Khan with whom the Peshwa's officer of that District, Ramchandra Bellaul, is in confinement.

5. After the failure of the attack on Bhopal, by the united Armies of Sindhia and the Bhonsla, Sindhia deputed a person to Vazeer Mohammed Khan for the purpose of inducing him to cede a portion of territory, and to pay a sum of money with a view of buying off renewal of operations against him; but Dajee Potनावसे, who is employed on the Mission, has not as yet succeeded in either of those objects.

6. The fort of Pitchore has been given up and the Chief has retired to a small fort as well as a few villages he will probably be allowed to retain.

7. Amir Khan after settling the terms of a contribution to be paid to him by Jaipore has marched into the territory of Bundi. His operations hitherto have been directed against Neinwa, one of the principal places belonging to that state, and the villages in its neighbourhood.

8. I attended the Durbar on the 11th instant for the purpose of presenting to Dowlat Rao Sindhia your Excellency's letter, dated the 6th October. Besides complimentary expressions and enquiries regarding your Excellency, the conversation was almost entirely respecting the progress of the War in Europe, which arose from questions on that subject by the Maharajah and his ministers.

Letter No. 13.—The letter refers to the Peshwa's claim to certain territories in Hindustan, which after the death of Khande Rao Oreikar, one of his chiefs, he wants to resume. The Resident points out the difficulties in this regard.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE EARL OF MOIRA, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, 21st November 1813.

The Peshwa having resumed the lands which were held in Hindustan by one of His Highness's Chiefs named Khundeh Rao Oreikur, who died about two years ago, and some of the districts being in the hands of Dowlat Rao Sindhia or of persons connected with him, an officer was sent by the Peshwa to this Camp for the purpose of receiving the orders of their surrender bringing a recommendation of the case to me from the Resident at Poona.

On my entering on the business with Dowlat Rao Sindhia, His Highness did not contend for the right to any of the lands; but one of his ministers, Moroba Hari, through his intrigues with the relatives of the late Oreikur at Poona, had got possession of three of the districts, which he was very averse to relinquish, and in the hope of being able to retain possession he even for a long time denied that he had any interest in them whatever.

Having ascertained the assertion of Moroba Hari to be false, I repeated to Sindhia the request that they should be made over to the Peshwa's officers. Dowlat Rao Sindhia accordingly directed Moroba Hari to give them up.

A considerable time elapsed before Moroba Hari could be brought to grant the orders of surrender although enjoined to do so by Sindhia, till at length after infinite subterfuges (with a relation of which I am unwilling to fatigue the attention of Government) which he employed to gain time, in the hope of being able to induce Sindhia not to insist on the delivery of the districts, and

for the purpose of being enabled by delay to realize the utmost of their produce for the present year, he reluctantly granted the orders addressed to the two persons who have charge of them on his part.

One district that of Agger remained. But of its being given up there seems to be no immediate prospect. This part of the late Oreikur's lands is held by Bapoo Khan one of Dowlat Rao Sindhia's Chiefs, under a grant from the Maharaja, who states that Bapoo Khan is refractory, and that there will be difficulty in dispossessing him. Sindhia urges, and with some justice, the inutility of issuing an order directing him to relinquish the place, as it would rather have the effect of putting him on his guard, and that he would immediately prepare for resistance, but promises that he shall be dispossessed. I have accordingly not pressed for the order, but I have distinctly apprized Sindhia that the burden of the expulsion of Bapoo Khan must fall on him, I am since informed that Bapoo Khan has been summoned to Camp; whether he will obey the summons is very doubtful, and in the event of his open resistance, which from his character is extremely likely the adoption of decisive measures by Sindhia against him is no less uncertain.

With a view to show the present state of the late Oreikur's lands I have the honour to enclose a copy of a letter which I lately addressed to the Resident at Poona. The places mentioned to be in the hands of Dost Mohammed Pindarraha there is little doubt were obtained by him from Dowlat Rao Sindhia, in which case the Maharajah might be considered responsible for his expulsion. I have, however, merely confined myself to requiring Dowlat Rao Sindhia to place the Peshwa's Officers in possession of such places as were actually in the occupation of His Highness's dependants.

Your Excellency is already informed that Ram Chandra Bellaul, the officer who was appointed by the Peshwa to the management of the Oreikur's lands, is in the hands of Sarwar Khan, who has also possession of Malhargarh. Ramchandra Bellaul, apprehending an attack from Jean Baptiste, had admitted Sarwar Khan into the fort of Malhargarh to his aid, when the latter treacherously took the opportunity of establishing his own authority, and of securing the person of Ramchandra Bellaul.

The officers who act under Ramchandra Bellaul are now about to proceed to receive charge of Gunjah, Mungowlee, and Bhowrassa, the three districts at present held by the servants of Moroba Hari but they strongly express their fears lest they should be attacked, and the districts seized by Sarwar Khan, stating their inability to defend the districts from that freebooter after they shall have received charge of them.

Had I conceived that the liberty of the Peshwa's officer and the possession of the Malhargarh were likely to have been attained by my calling on Sarwar Khan, I would have done so. He acts independantly of his nominal master Amir Khan, and is unlikely to be influenced unless he had reason to believe that force would eventually be employed against him.

Letter No. 14.—The letter refers to some of the affairs of Dowlat Rao and his ministers, to the proceedings of Murar Rao Powar and Jean Baptiste, and to the activities of the Pindaries.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE EARL OF MOIRA, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, 5th December 1813.

Since the date of my last dispatch to Your Excellency little change has taken place in the affairs of this Court. Gopal Rao Bhow, though he declined to be regularly installed by Dowlat Rao Sindhia as his principal Minister, expressed his readiness to obey the Maharajah in everything, and that he would exert himself to the utmost towards settling the demands of the Army as well as the disorders which pervade every part of the Government; but no progress in these essential points has hitherto been made, and the share in the administration now taken by Gopal Rao Bhow is scarcely more than before. Dowlat Rao Sindhia has for some days past been unwell, so that all business which requires His Highness's personal attention is suspended.

2. Bala Bhow with his Army is on the march to Javud, a place held by Jeswant Rao Bhow, one of Sindhia's principal Chiefs, who resides mostly at Kumbhalmer in Mewar. The progress of Bala Bhow's Army from Shoojawalpore has been marked with violence throughout. On one occasion trenches were opened against a fort belonging to Holkar in whose territory as well as in that of their own sovereign, contributions were levied while passing. Holkar detached a force to oppose them should they continue their mischief, but by the last accounts they had reached Sindhia's possessions in Mewar.

3. Murar Rao Powar, whose proceedings excited so much alarm at this court and at that of Holkar, was betrayed by his own troops into the hands of Holkar's officer Ramdin, who was employed against him, and whom he had a short time before defeated.

4. Dowlat Rao Sindhia has summoned Colonel Jean Baptiste to Camp and he has replied to the Maharajah that he will attend him as soon as he shall have finished the marriage of his son, for which purpose he is now gone to Soopoor.

5. The Pindaries are in considerable force on both sides of the Nerbudda. Those attached to Cheetoo were by the last accounts chiefly encamped in Dowlat Rao Sindhia's territories to the Southward of that river, though great part of the plunder brought by them from the Southward appears to have been carried to Sutwas. The district of Shoojawalpore has suffered severely, from the Pindaries of Karim's party. Another body of those marauders have since ravaged the country in the neighbourhood of Ujjain, and plundered the town of Taujepore, about ten miles from that city.

6. Holkar is encamped at Rampoor. Amir Khan having levied a contribution from the Rajah of Bundi quitted the territory of that Chief and proceeded to Oonera. He is now marching towards Kota.

Letter No. 15.—The letter refers to the confinement of the Pindary Chief Karim Khan, the defence of certain passes near Aseer, the whereabouts of certain Pindary Chiefs, and Jaipur affairs.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOULAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE HON'BLE THE EARL OF MOIRA, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, Gwalior, 16th April 1814.

I have communicated to Dowlat Rao Sindhia the satisfaction derived by your Excellency from his solicitude for the continued confinement of the Pindary leader Kareem Khan and His Highness appeared much pleased at your Excellency's favourable sentiments on that subject.

I took the opportunity of again bringing to His Highness's attention the expediency of guarding the passes in the neighbourhood of Aseer with a view to the obstruction of the Pindaries in their designs against the Deccan, it having occurred to me that the local authorities to whom the Maharajah transmitted his orders for that purpose might in reply represent their inability to execute them. Sindhia again informed me that the measure should be adopted, but, that he did not think it would prevent the Pindaries from penetrating towards Southward. I explained that it would so far interfere with their designs as to force them to take a more circuitous route, by which they would avoid that part of His Highness's territory.

Cheetoo has returned to Hindia and the greatset part of his Durrah is posted at Jevagaon, a few miles from that place, to the Northward of the Nerbudda. Preparations appear to be making for hostilities with the Pindaries of Kareem's party a considerable body of whom have moved to Dowlutpur, within one march of Jevagaon.

Ameer Khan continues at Sheergur. His troops, under Omar Khan have moved to Kilcheepoor, committing their depredations on different places as they passed without regard to whom they belonged.

The troops of the Rajah of Jaipur, aided by a force under one of Mohammed Shah Khan's officers, have gained a victory over the confederated chiefs of that state near Chomooha, in which all

the guns with the army of latter were captured. Mahammed Shah Khan has taken the fort of Hindown which was defended by two sons of Dhondee Khan, who effected their escape.

On the 8th instant I visited Dowlat Rao Sindhia by invitation, with the gentleman of the Residency and the principal natives attached to it, to an entertainment which consisted of a Dinner, Naach, and the customary Khelats.

Letter No. 16.—The enclosure to this letter, which is an address from Mr. Strachey to the Governor-General refers to the preparation of the Sindhia against the Pindaries and the efforts of the Pindaries to consolidate their strength.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO
SINDHIA,

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp, 17th April 1814.

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of my dispatch No. 12 of this date to His Excellency the Governor-General.

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON'BLE THE
EARL OF MOIRA, K.G.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that Dowlat Rao Sindhia has intimated to me that he is preparing an expedition against the Pindaries, which is to be commanded by Colonel Jean Baptiste and a Marhatta officer of rank.

The representations which in conformity to the orders of your Excellency in Council I have lost no opportunity of making to the Durbar respecting the expediency of acting against the Pindaries appear to have had some effect. I have uniformly expressed my opinion to the Durbar that the rising power of Pindaries must be a source of jealousy and apprehension to this government which however is not acknowledged although some of the Maharajah's best districts are at the mercy of those marauders, whose depredations have overspread the country from Gurra Kota to the suburbs of Ujjain, which tract, as well as Sindhia's territory in the Deccan has no adequate protection against them.

As yet no assembly of troops has taken place, but I learn from the Vakeel of Raja Rana Zaulim Sing, the Sindhia has called on him for an auxiliary force, which that chief has consented to furnish under a stipulation that his troops shall not join those of the Maharaja until the latter shall have commenced operations.

I am informed by Zaulim Sing's Vakeel that his master is perfectly ready to afford his aid towards the reduction of the Pindaries, but that (experienced in the bad faith and unsteadiness of this Court) he is unwilling to commit himself by prematurely

sending a force avowedly to act against them thereby exciting so formidable an enemy against himself, while he considers that the intentions of this Durbar cannot yet be depended on. The military establishment of Kota is efficient and regularly paid, and the troops are always ready to move at the shortest notice.

During the last year the Pindaries have exerted themselves unusually with a view to the attainment of strength in Infantry and Artillery, which will doubtless tend to facilitate their permanent footing in the countries they attacked. Their equipment have been in progress while their predatory incursions have been carried on with unabated activity during that period, and this Government perhaps begins to be aware that without an extraordinary effort in the field its ill-stored and ill-garrisoned fortress will offer no material obstacle to the establishment of their authority over the greatest part of Malwa.

The dissensions which exist between the leaders of the principal Hordes are important, since it may be considered doubtful whether any native power could successfully resist an attack of their united force.

I feel it my duty on the present occasion to observe, that in the event of Sindiah's assembling a force for the expedition which he has announced, it would by no means be inconsistent with his character, should a restless eagerness for conquest lead him to think it a favourable opportunity for the prosecution of his designs on Bhopal or Raghogurh, or on some other petty state, and instead of directing his arms against the Pindaries, that he should persuade one or more of their principle leaders to co-operate with him for the latter purpose.

RICHARD STRACHEY,
Resident.

Sindhia's Camp:
17th April 1814.

Letter No. 17.—The enclosure to this letter, which is a copy sent to Elphinstone under the same date, refers to the vesting of the authority over the territory of Jhansi in the family of Gopal Rao Bhau.

FROM—J. ADAM, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, 17th June 1814.

I am directed to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of letter addressed under the authority of His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council to the Resident at Poona under this day's date.

TO—THE HON'BLE M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT
POONA.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 29th reporting the substance of your communications with the Peshwa's ministers relative to the succession to the Soobadaree of

Jansee and the manner in which you propose to proceed under the instructions of Government communicated to you in my dispatch of the 29th of April on the same subject.

Your proceedings and intentions as described in the dispatch above acknowledged are already approved by the Governor-General in Council who concurs in the expediency of the course which you propose to pursue and in the justice of your remarks on the probable effect on the Peshwa's mind of bringing forward in the present stage of the affairs any proposition for vesting the hereditary authority over the Jansee territory in the family of Sheo Row Bhow or even for renewing the treaty with his successor.

On the latter point however I am directed to observe that when the subject of renewing the treaty comes to be discussed the Peshwa may be induced to view it with less disinclination when it is distinctly pointed out to him that by being himself virtually a party to the engagement which moreover expressly provides for the maintenance of all His Highness's rights in Jansee the best security against any infringement of those rights, will be a renewal in concert with the British Government of the same engagement with the successor of the present Soobahdar.

Forr William :
17th June 1814.

I have the honour to be,
Sir, etc.,

JOHN ADAM.
Secretary to Government.

Letter No. 18.—The letter reports the general affairs of Sindhia's dominions—the operations of Jeswant Rao Bhau, Amir Khan and Baptiste. It also refers to the request of Sindhia to the Bhonsla for a sum of money in return for which the Sindhia offers the guarantee of a part of the territory of Bhopal.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO
SINDHIA,

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE THE EARL OF MOIRA, K.G.,
GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, 3rd July 1814.

Since my last address to Your Excellency Jeswant Rao Bhau has taken Shoojawulpur, which was in the possession of the Pindaries of Kerreem. Cheetoo and the Bhau are acting in concert and they occupy a position a little to the southward of that place.

The operations against Shoojawulpur were carried on by Jeswunt Rao Bhau notwithstanding the remonstrances of Ameer Khan, who now shows every disposition to oppose Jeswunt Rao. Amir Khan had proceeded westerly to Agger from whence he moved in the direction of Shoojawulpur. He has committed aggressions at Shahjehanpoor the Jageer of Meina Bye, Dowlat Rao

Sindhia's mother, whose complaints in consequence have been very loud, and the Maharajah has addressed Ameer Khan in strong terms of remonstrance by letter and through his vakeel who resides here.

At present it does not seem unlikely that Ameer Khan may join Vazir Mahummod Khan and the Pindaries of Kerreem's party which would probably lead to reprisals against him though the excesses at Shahjehanpur might be overlooked; a body of Holkar's troops under Ram Deen have moved towards Bhopal and the Maharatta and Pindary horse with Jeswant Rao Bhau attack their foraging parties whenever an opportunity offers.

It may be remarked that Vazir Mahummud Khan and the Pindaries of Kerreem are within a short distance of Jeswunt Rao Bhau on one side, Ram Deen's detachment on another, and Ameer Khan on another. Hostilities have occurred between each of those parties and Jeswunt Rao and they have all committed depredations lately in Sindhia's territories. Further hostilities may therefore be expected.

Jeswunt Rao Bhau has been guilty of very unwarrantable aggressions on the estates of the Vinchoor Jageerdar, the probability of which I mentioned in my dispatch of the 13th ultimo. These proceedings have led to new discussions with the Durbar, the particulars of which I shall hereafter do myself the honour of reporting to Your Excellency.

Jean Baptiste is still halted at Bahaudergur. The detachment of Cavalry which he is to receive from hence moved out of camp some days ago but has not yet finally marched. I was yesterday informed by Atmaram Pandit that the Maharajah did not wish to hurry the operation of Baptiste as he would have a better prospect of acting against the Pindaries with effect when the rise of the Nurbudda should oppose an obstacle to their escape across it.

During the last few months there has been frequent communication by letter between Dowlat Rao Sindhia and the Rajah of Nagpur on the subject as is stated, of aid required by the Raja against the expected attack of Ameer Khan, and their respective views against Bhopal but nothing was settled. A few days ago Sindhia deputed to Nagpur Narsing Rao, the son of Balajee Jeswunt, the Raja's Vakeel. The object of his mission is, I am informed, a request for the advance of a sum of money, in return for which Sindhia offers to guarantee a part of the territory of Bhopal to the Rajah of Nagpur but the troops of the latter are required to co-operate with those of the Maharaja in effecting the conquest. A second point is stated to be the recovery of the property of Khundajee Ingleah who fled to Nagpur after his expulsion from Nurwur, and who lately died at Jubbulpur in the service of the Rajah; and another a general improvements of the friendly relations of the two states towards each other. Holkar's camp has lately made a few marches to the southward and is now on the right bank of the Chumbul about 30 miles south-west of Kota.

Letter No. 19.—The enclosure to this letter which is an address¹ from Mr. Strachey to the Governor-General, throws light on Sindhia's affairs in general and the question of Vinchoor Jagirdar in particular.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO
SINDHIA,

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp, 16th July 1814.

I transmit herewith a copy of my dispatch No. 16 to His Excellency the Governor-General.

To—HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON'BLE THE
EARL OF MOIRA.

MY LORD,

Your Excellency is already apprized of the renewed aggressions of the troops of this Government in the possession of the Vinchoor Jageerdar in the vicinity of the Nurbudda. I now beg leave to relate what has passed between me and the Durbar in consequence.

It is proper to observe that the aggressions now adverted to have not been exceeded in violence by any that have preceded them, and they still continue, notwithstanding the strong injunctions which have been addressed to Jeswunt Rao Bhau, the Commander of the aggressive army, to put a stop to them.

Several weeks ago I had every reason to believe that Jeswunt Rao had a design of raising money from the Vinchoor Jageerdar's estate, and the intelligence which reached me was confirmed by a letter I received from the office of that chief at Ashta, and by the representations of the Jageerdar's Agent in this camp. In consequence of which I expressed to the Durbar my hope that effectual measures had been adopted for the security of those possessions, regarding which I could not but feel some apprehension, when I observed the same army which had before committed such unprovoked devastation there in full march to that quarter, mentioning also the tenor of the reports which had reached me.

The reply which I received to that communication was that orders were before issued to the officers of that army directing them to respect the possessions of the Vinchoor Jageerdar, and that others more particularly worded should now be transmitted to Jeswunt Rao Bhau with the same view.

Shortly after I received reports from my newswriter in Jeswunt Rao Bhau's camp, for several days successively stating that he had demanded a contribution of a lakh of rupees from the Manager at Ashta the principal place belonging to the Jageerdar in that quarter, and that his troops were committing the most unprovoked

violence and plunder in various parts of his territory. I communicated to Dowlut Rao Sindhia the written reports as I received them adding such observations from myself on the culpable conduct of His Highness's officers and troops as appeared to be proper, and begging that he would apply an adequate remedy.

Whether the accounts of what was going forward in the army of Jeswunt Rao Bhau had already reached Sindiah or not I am uninformed, but on the Maharaja's receipt of this intimation from me His Highness showed much anger towards Jeswunt Rao Bhau to whom he without delay dispatched new orders worded in the strongest terms. The Maharaja sent Atmaram Pandit to communicate their purport to me.

The Pandit informed me that the Maharaja had stated to Jeswunt Rao the reports which he had received of his proceedings; had strongly reprimanded him for the impropriety of his conduct; had told him that the former irregularities of the troops under his command had produced discussions with the British Government, who supported the rights of the Vinchoor Jageerdar, the possessions of which chief the Maharaja charged him to molest in no way, assuring him, if he persisted, that he would no longer be considered a servant of his Government, but would be treated as though he were one of the Pindaries, against whom the Maharaja was now proposing to act; and, that he was directed to join his force to that of Colonel Jean Baptiste, for that purpose.

Subsequently to this, accounts continued to arrive from the southward bringing details of the unwarrantable and cruel outrages which were going forward in the Jageerdar's territory, and the complaints of the representative of the Jageerdar in camp were frequently repeated to me respecting the melancholy advices which he received from his districts, while he said there was now no hope whatever, except from the British Government, of saving his master's possessions, which had again been attacked in so wanton a manner.

The Jageerdar's Agent states that it is useless for him to be urgent at the Durbar where his representations have long ceased to have any effect. It is probable, however, that he refrains as much as possible from complaining, for he is evidently solicitous not to displease the Maharaja and the ministers. On a former occasion he told me he was always anxious to avoid offending them, the greater part of his master's possessions in Hindostan being contiguous to, or surrounded by, those of Dowlut Rao Sindhia, to whom he had often been in the habit of looking for their protection.

I now communicated another message to Sindiah by Atmaram Pandit and I received a renewed assurance that Jeswunt Rao Bhau should be considered as a rebel, and punished accordingly, with the addition, that if he received his punishment from the British Government or the Peshwa, or even from Holkar's troops, which were now in his neighbourhood, the Maharajah should not reject it, and further that Baptiste should be ordered to attack him.

These replies I could not consider satisfactory. They seemed to be too loose on an affair which by the criminal conduct of the officers of this Government, had become more serious than ever and for which an efficient remedy was now essentially requisite. Nor could I readily believe that Sindia had determined to undertake operations against one of his principal chiefs whose army, including his auxiliary Pindaries, was the most numerous perhaps in Hindustan now in the field, and to punish him as a rebel; I accordingly, sent my Moonshee to the Durbar on the 2nd instant and through him transmitted to Sindiah another message, which I had committed to paper that it might remain with the Maharaja. I have the honour to enclose copies of it in English and Persian.

Sindhia assuured the Monahée that the strictest injunctions had been sent to Jeswunt Rao Bhau, and repeated that he should treat him as a rebel if he persisted in his conduct.

With respect to the reply to Your Excellency's letter, mentioned in my message, it was promised to be prepared with as little delay as possible.

It is here proper to observe that Atmaram Pandit afterwards told me that the reply to Your Lordship's letter was postponed until the result of the Maharaja's negotiation with the Vinchoor Jageerdar should be ascertained. It may be remarked that this new reason was not thought of until after the Moonshee's visit to the Durbar. My belief, however, is that the Ministers find the letter difficult to be answered, and with regard to the alleged negotiation with the Vinchoor Jageerdar, the Agent of the latter denies that any steps whatever are in progress with a view to the indemnification of that chief, indeed I am informed that no negotiation whatever is going on. I have never been able to discover a sincere tendency in the Durbar to settle the affair either with the Jageerdar, or his Agent, or through my mediation and I believe that disposition not to exist.

On the subject of the complaint against Baptiste which Your Lordship will also observe in the enclosed memorandum, the Minister told the Moonshee that Baptiste had settled that with Gunput Rao, the Jageerdar's Agent. The Munshi replied it was very odd that I had received no intimation of that kind from him. The Ministers said it was only necessary to refer to Ganpat Rao to be satisfied on the point. The Moonshee, well aware of the falsehood which the ministers were condescending to adopt, asked in the event of its after all turning out otherwise, what would be done? They answered that in that case new orders should be sent to Baptiste.

The day following the delivery of the message by the Moonshee, I received new accounts from Jeswunt Rao Bhau's army, which related the behaviour of that chief after the receipt of the orders from the Maharaja, abovementioned in the 4th paragraph which

reached him on the 21st ultimo. I confess that from the first I had no sanguine hope of their producing the desired effect, yet I did not suppose that Jeswunt Rao Bhao would have resisted them in the undisguised manner that he did. I have the honour to transmit a copy and translation of the accounts alluded to.

Having no doubt of the capability of Jeswunt Rao Bhau's conduct, I have thought myself warranted in regarding it in a new light and I determined to lose no time in making another communication to Sindhia. I accordingly summoned Atmaram Pandit, and having communicated to him the intelligence which had reached me, I desired him to intimate to the Maharaja that I was convinced Your Excellency would be highly displeased as well as surprised at the conduct of Jeswunt Rao Bhau, stating my opinion that your Lordship would immediately direct me to suspend the payment of the provisional pension held by that chief, who was now acting in opposition to both the Maharaja and the British Government. He had much conversation on the subject of the aggressions on the Vinchoor Jageerdar, in which I am inadvertent on the unjustifiable conduct of the Maharaja's officers, who have been employed from time to time in the vicinity of his possessions, but particularly of Jeswunt Rao Bhao and Bala Bhao. To show how incorrigible Marathas of any rank are in such transactions, I may mention that the latter, who is with Jeswunt Rao, notwithstanding the censure which he repeatedly himself received on the preceding occasion, has taken the present opportunity of putting in his claim for an arrear of one of his unauthorized extortions of last year.

Atmaram made no reply to what I said on the subject of Jeswunt Rao Bhao's pension further than that he would communicate what had passed to the Maharaja. I reminded Atmaram that by the principle on which the pensions were granted they were resumable on the bad conduct of the holder. I said that although I had just paid the last instalment of the pension, not thinking myself authorized to suspend it without Your Excellency's orders, Jeswant Rao Bhau had, in my opinion, incurred the forfeit of it.

No notice has been taken of this communication since which several days have elapsed. I have little doubt that the tenor of it was unexpected and the circumstance of the whole amount of the pensions being received by Sindiah himself may have tended to render an answer embarrassing.

I have since received from my newswriter a particular statement of Jeswunt Rao Bhao's reception of the second orders addressed to him by Sindhia, abovementioned in the 6 and 7 paragraphs, together with such accounts of the continued scene of rapine and cruelty in the territory of the Vinchoor Chief, that I have requested an audience of Sindhia when I shall again bring the subject of this dispatch to his particular notice. I shall endeavour

to settle something definitively with regard to the compensation for the former aggressions on the Jageerdar's districts, but it is my duty to offer an opinion that this Government will not consent to afford it voluntarily, even admitting that they be brought to acknowledge the justice of every item of the demand, and consequently that there is little doubt that it will be necessary to have recourse to a stoppage from the annual stipend which is payable to Sindiah under the definitive treaty.

To show how the Maharaja's last orders were received, I enclose a copy and translation of the newswriter's report on that subject. The Agent of the Vinchoor Jageerdar has communicated to me a letter from the Chief Officer at Ashta on the subject of the late aggressions, in which he relates the delivery to Jeswunt Rao Bhao of Sindiah's orders in these words: "My son presented the letter to the Bhao who placed it on his head, but then in an angry tone declared that if he even brought him ten such orders he would not obey them, and that he would certainly have a sum of money. If his master called him to account in this affair, he had a reply ready."

Previously to the late renewal of the aggressions it appeared sufficient to require remuneration for the Vinchoor Jageerdar according to the statements which was laid before Sindhia last year, and I proposed to go no further, under the hope, that insisting steadily upon it, receiving of course any objections which might be urged on the part of Sindhia, would answer every necessary purpose by effectually preventing the recurrence of the evil, while there was every reason to believe that such a mode of proceeding would satisfy the Jageerdar, who had brought forward no new demands.

Ample time has been allowed to Sindhia for coming to a settlement with the Jageerdar if that had really been the Maharaja's design, in conformity to his promises. It was the more incumbent on the Maharaja to have done so as I had repeatedly acquainted him that Your Excellency felt every wish to avoid putting His Highness to inconvenience, although I took care to represent clearly your determination to see the affair adjusted, but I stated that Your Excellency would be happy were it accomplished by His Highness, without further interference on the part of the British Government.

Under a conviction, however, that the assurances of the Durbar were not to be trusted, I did not allow the subject to remain unnoticed, although the discussion rested; reminding the Maharaja occasionally that I had it still in my mind. It is not going too far to presume that in conformity to the practice of this court, the primary object of those assurances was to gain time, with a chance that the subject might gradually become old and obsolete, till the question should at length be relinquished altogether; I have, therefore, in consequence of the late occurrences thought it my duty to press the affair on the Durbar more warmly than ever.

The present crisis appears to require that something should be settled finally, and with this view I beg to solicit Your Excellency's orders to what extent compensation to the Jageerdar for his losses is to be required from Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

It will be recollected that the only demand which has hitherto been made on Sindhia is on account of the spoliations committed by the authority of one of his Generals, for a certain period. Former and subsequent contributions besides indiscriminate plunder of the districts, have not been brought into the discussion further than as subjects of remonstrance. To obtain a satisfactory statement of the loss of individuals in the plunder of villages through the Jageerdar's officers alone, while there are no means of checking it here, would be difficult, but by deputing persons to the spot accompanied by others on the part of the Durbar, a fair account might, I conceive, be procured.

In the event of that measure appearing to Your Excellency to be expedient the period from which the investigation should commence would remain to be determined. It perhaps should not go further back than the date on which Bala Bhao succeeded to the command of the army. A particular demand on account of injury sustained within a stated time having been made on Sindhia though not including the damage by common plunder and other means during the period mentioned, it might not be advisable to cause an alteration of that demand, setting aside the difficulty which must exist in ascertaining the extent of such losses with any degree of accuracy at so distant a date. But as no demand has yet been made for the subsequent contributions and other outrages the whole of the latter ought perhaps to be investigated, and Sindhia required to discharge whatever may be substantiated.

During the late expeditions of Bala Bhao and Jeswunt Rao Bhao, although considerably smaller sums have been raised by contribution than on former occasions, the pillage has been comparatively more destructive, while both those officers were perfectly aware of the situation of the Vinchoor Jageerdar with regard to the Peshwa, and of the direct interference of the British Government in his favour with the Maharaja.

It cannot be supposed that if this Government had exerted itself in a proper manner to put a stop to the unwarrantable proceedings which have for so long a period afforded grounds of complaint their efforts would have been unsuccessful, instead of which the Maharaja and his ministers contented themselves with making promises, which have been broken, and with issuing orders, which have proved entirely nugatory.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient humble servant,

RICHARD STRACHEY,

Resident.

Sindhia's Camp
The 13th July 1814.

Extract from a paper of Intelligence from Jeswant Rao Bhao's Camp, dated 26th June 1814.

After perusing the Maharajah's Shoocka (which had been presented to him by Bugwunt Rao Abba). The Bhao said that he received no remittances from the Maharajh, that such orders as the present were continually sent to him, that he had levied contributions every where, and had not hitherto been subject to punishment; nor would he abstain in the present case, for if the Maharajah did not assist him how else should he be able to go on? That he was under no apprehension; that he had no intention of attending the presence in person, but should remain with his army, and if any one should come for the purpose of compelling him he should oppose him; that he was afraid of nothing, for life was to be resigned to God but once, what would be the result of the interference of anybody in this affair in their favour? Whatever was destined would happen. If they agreed to discharge the contribution, steps should be taken to do so or if he might return home. As he (Jeswunt Rao) had taken a contribution from Mynah, so he would take it from other places and would plunder them in the same manner, adding that Ashta would be laid waste. Although intimidating orders came to him from the Maharajah, he should not allow them to influence his conduct.

Abha replied that the place was at the Bhao's service; and stated that the Infantry had beat to death 14 inhabitants of Mynah; that the Puttail of that place was a prisoner; and that the whole property contained in it had been plundered.

(True Translation)

RICHARD STRACHEY.

Memorandum from Mr. Richard Strachey presented to Maharajah Dowlat Rao Sindhia by Moonshee Aezoo Deen on the 2nd July 1814.

The recent aggression on the territory of the Vinchoor Jageer-dar by the army under the command of Jeswunt Rao Bhao make it my duty again to bring this affair in a particular manner to the notice of the Maharajah.

These utterly unjustifiable proceedings are unexpected because the assurances that no further outrages should take place towards the possessions of that chief, which I have so repeatedly received from His Highness and the Ministers personally in reply to the remonstrances pressed by me continually on their attention, declaredly under the special commands of the Governor-General, besides those contained in the Maharajah's letters to the Governor-General, led me, incautiously it now appears, to believe that effectual measures would be adopted to prevent their recurrence.

When I heard, about a month ago, of the threat which Jeswunt Rao Bhao had presumed to issue against the already impoverished estates of the Vinchoor Jageerdar, my communication through Atmaram would have shown the Maharaja the necessity of attending to the proceedings of that army, from which they had before suffered and from whose notorious insubordination everything was to be apprehended, while it was particularly to be recollected that under their present and former commanders those troops had carried the miseries of predatory war into all countries within their reach, Domestic and Foreign without discrimination, for the last two years, but particularly into the districts of the Vinchoor Chief in the face of the strongest and continued representations of the British Government, urged in every way on the attention of the Durbar.

Although discussion might indeed be considered as nearly exhausted, the Maharajah will not find, however faint my hope of success may be, that I at all relax in my endeavours to produce some effect on his mind by the reiterated exposition of my sentiments on the subject (which His Highness will understand to be in strict conformity to the instructions of my Government), so long as he neither puts a stop to the culpable proceedings of his troops nor shows an intention of satisfying the Vinchoorkar for the heavy loss which those turbulent bands have occasioned to him.

While the former cause of complaint is as yet unadjusted, the present aggression is particularly improper and unjustifiable.

That such depredations are the casual acts of a army in a state of confusion cannot be received as an excuse. If the Maharajah finds it worth while to have an army so undisciplined and licentious, he is doubtless, as I have frequently before observed, entirely responsible for its acts.

It has become necessary that I should remind the Maharajah that His Excellency the Earl of Moira's letter of the 29th October to His Highness's address is still unreplied to. I must entreat His Highness's persual of that letter once more, and I am sure that he will feel a conviction of its importance.

To show that the continued discussions respecting the violated property of the Vinchoor Jageerdar have not precluded further oppression towards him in other quarters, it is proper to remark that this chief is continuing to suffer from the injustice of Colonel Jean Baptiste who, notwithstanding the assurances given to me personally by His Highness on the 11th March, quitted camp without settling the indisputably just claims of the Jagirdar's Agent against him.

I may add that Jeswunt Rao Bhao and his auxiliary Pindarries are now laying waste with their usual rapine the possessions of the Vinchoor Jageerdar, that he is levying a contribution at one

place and has taken hostages for its payment, that he has demanded one lakh of rupees from Ashta, which place he has had the effrontery to say that he will occupy in the event of its not being paid. For further particulars of his unwarrantable violence I beg to refer the Maharajah to the papers which I have transmitted for his persual.

(A true copy)

RICHARD STRACHEY.

Resident.

Extracts from papers of Intelligence from the Camp of Jeswant Rao Bhao, between Shoojawulpur and Ashta.

21st June. A Shoocka from the Maharajah reached the Bhao which enjoined him on no account to commit aggressions on Ashta, and informing him in the event of his harrassing that district in any way, that his conduct could not be passed with impurity, directing him also to join Colonel Jean Baptiste for the purpose of punishing the disaffected. Having persued the Shoocka, he communicated its contents to Bala Bhao, and they reflected upon it. The latter recommended that he should take what he could get from the Komausdar of Ashta, and move from hence without delay.

The Bhao sent for the vakeel of the Komausdar of Ashta and demanded payment of the contribution. The latter gave a positive refusal, but said that he might establish his authority there, and that he would prepare the orders of surrender. He told the Vakeel that he could not have his liberty until the contribution should be discharged.

After a private consultation, the Bhao told Gunga Pershaud that 50,000 Rs. would be taken from the Komausdar of Ashta, half of which would be allotted to the Horse under him and the remainder to the Brigade of Infantry.

Hurba Anna went to Raja Dhan Sing, at the Infantry camp with the Ashta Vakeel for the purpose of settling the contribution. The Rajah demanded from the Vakeel 60,000 Rs. besides expenses. The latter would not agree, but offered the orders for the surrender of Ashta. The Rajah said they were not required but that the contribution must be paid. Nothing was finally settled.

The Horse detached at Ashta with a Dustuk are guilty of excesses very disressing to the inhabitants. The Infantry who went to secure the grain on account of the contribution from

Mynab, plundered that place completely; nothing has escaped the general pillage, except the small fort, and that is likely to be taken.

22nd June. Bugwunt Rao Abbha, of Ashta, came to visit the Bhao who demanded from him the money to be paid from his districts. The former stated that Ram Deen Soobah (an officer of Holkar) had encamped at Mutwara and had sent a party of Horse to demand a contribution. To whom was he to pay a contribution? Further the Bhao's Infantry at Mynab had plundered the grain and the household property of that place and had seized some of the inhabitants whom they ill-treated searching for the grain underground, and that a man had died in consequence. Thousands of rupees in grain and other property had been plundered from that village, and he submitted that the amount of the injury sustained there, should be deducted from the contribution. The Bhao said, exclusive of the contribution from that place you will pay 50,000 Rs. clear, to which the Komausdar did not agree.

23rd June. The Bhao was visited by Bugwunt Abba, the son of Bapoo Mohiput Rao, Komausdar of Ashta, from whom he presented a letter stating that Ram Deen Soobah who was at Mutwara had plundered 2 villages and sent a Dustuk to Ashta by the party of Horse who had committed depredations. It was surprising that these horsemen plundered on one side and his on the other. The condition of the inhabitants was deplorable. He begged him to put a stop to what was going on or refused to do it, that he might conduct himself accordingly. After his perusal of the letter, the Bhao said the affair should be settled, but desired that the contribution should be quickly settled. Abbha replied the place was at his service, for it was impossible to raise so heavy a sum as the Bhao required. He said that he would consent to nothing but the contribution.

Lalla Badamee Lal Bukhahy came to pay his respects to the Bhao who ordered him to call on the Komausdar of Ashta to discharge the contribution from the non-adjustment of which much inconvenience had arisen. He replied that the Komausdar would agree to nothing. The Bhao directed him to demand 55,000 Rs. and the contribution be realised.

The Bhao told the troops who were settling Dhurna that he was settling a contribution from Ashta, of which they should receive a share.

(A true translation.)

RICHARD STRACHEY,

Resident.

Letter No. 20.—The letter is important, as it contains the views of the British Government in regard to the settlement of the Vinchoor Jagirdar's claims to compensation for the depredations of Sindhia's troops in the Jagirdar's territory. Other matters of less importance like Baptiste's movements and the case of Hindoo Rao Ghatgay, the brother-in-law of the Sindhia, are also mentioned.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO
SINDHIA,

TO—THE RT. HON'BLE THE EARL OF MOIRA, K.G.,
GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, 17th July 1814.

The evening before last I attended the Durbar by appointment.

I took the opportunity of presenting Your Excellency's letter announcing to Dowlat Rao Sindiah your tour of the upper provinces, which had reached me the day before. The letter was, as usual, translated aloud to the Maharajh by Moonshee Letchman Rao.

A pausing ensuing, after some conversation on the subject of Your Excellency's letter, I observed that the original object of my present visit was probably known. I then shortly recapitulated what had passed respecting Jeswunt Rao Bhao's attack on the Vinchoor Jageerdar's possessions, and I expressed my regret that the Maharajah had not acted up to the assurances which I had received for very long a period, as I could not doubt that if suitable measures had been adopted towards Bala Bhao in consequence of his conduct last year, the cause of the present discussion could not have occurred and that I was now at a loss in looking for a remedy.

Gopaul Rao Bhao said that my messages had been communicated to the Maharajah and that the Moonshee and Atmaram would have delivered the replies, by which I should have learnt the determination with respect to Jeswunt Rao Bhau who had completely forfeited the Maharajah's confidence. I observed that other had behaved in the same way with impunity; that he had been going on in his present career of plunder and disobedience for a couple of months and nothing effectual had been done to stop it. I admitted that the Maharajah had issued orders in the strongest terms possible, my only complaint on that score was that they were not enforced, and that the aggressions had rather increased after Jeswant Rao's receipt of them in proof of which, I submitted several documents in my possession containing accounts from his army and from Ashta which were then read to Sindiah at my request by Moonshee Latchman Rao.

I remarked that the disrespect with which Jeswunt Rao had received the orders of his sovereign really seemed almost incredible and that I had at first hesitated to believe it, but that it soon received full confirmation. I expressed my concern that one of the Maharajah's chiefs of the first rank and of so high a character as Jeswunt Rao Bhao should have committed himself as he had, well acquainted too as he was with the situation of the Vinchoor Jagirdar, and of the British intervention in his favour. No attempt whatever was made to justify or to palliate the conduct of Jeswunt Rao Bhao. Anajee Bhasker and Gopal Rao Bhao both said that whatever had been his services he had forfeited the Maharajah's favour, and would suffer for his blamable conduct.

I endeavoured to get the ministers to explain what measures would be pursued towards Jeswunt Rao Bhao. They said that Baptiste would be sent against him, and would attack him openly if he showed any opposition to the Maharajah's will. They said that the whole of his Cavalry, which was more numerous than that with Baptiste, would quit him as soon as it was known that he had incurred the Maharajah's displeasure particularly the Barra Bhyes and other Marhatta Cavalry, besides all the Pindaries, and that no Cavalry would remain with him except a few of his own household troops. They said his Infantry might possibly stand by him. They accounted for Bala Bhao's not having been made to suffer for his former depredations by his having gone off to Mewar where it would have been difficult to have compelled him to anything, but that he would now be involved in whatever might fall on Jeswunt Rao Bhao. He is Jeswunt Rao's uncle.

I then said it would be necessary to consider how the compensation for the damage which had been sustained was to be settled; that I had hoped the former discussions had brought the subject of the old aggressions into a train which might lead to an adjustment, although it was opposed by the delays with which the Durbar had met it throughout; that even that prospect was now darkened, and aggravated injuries were super-added to the former ones. The ministers replied that the present damage would be settled by the punishment of the offenders, to which I observed that punishment had been often talked of on former and similar occasions as well as on the present, but that in no instance had it taken place, nor had the threat even prevented the continuance or renewal of the depredations. I stated that as long as such violence continued to be committed by His Highness's troops, he would of course be considered responsible.

I again adverted to the delays which had arisen in the adjustment of the former damage, in which His Highness was stated to be engaged with the Vinchoor Jageerdar. I said it was positively necessary that something should be settled. For above a year this negotiation had been affirmed to be in progress; but that on the other hand there was every reason to believe that nothing

was going on towards bringing the matter to a termination; and that the Vinchoor Jageerdar continued to complain, denying that the Maharajah showed any disposition to satisfy him for his losses.

The ministers now said that the delay had arisen from a variety of circumstances, but chiefly from the absence of the Peshwa from Poona on a pilgrimage to Nasik. I replied if that was the case, that the same excuse might be repeated now, His Highness having lately left Poona on a similar expedition to Punderpur, and further that he would probably go again to Nasik before very long. They said that the adjustment of the affair would be accelerated, and the Peshwa's interference (what this was to be they did not state) would terminate it. I replied that I still could not but doubt the result of the Maharajah's correspondence with Poona, from whence the only tone in which I had ever heard the affair of the Vinchoor Jageerdar mentioned was that of complaint, and that that chief had lately positively denied all negotiation to the Resident, adding that it seemed very extraordinary that all the accounts which reached me were in unison on that point if the Maharajah were really settling the affair with him. They repeated that the business would be soon settled satisfactorily.

I then observed that the dispute could not be protracted indefinitely and that if it were not settled by the period when the next instalment of the Maharajah's stipend became due, I should be obliged to make the compensation to the Vinchoor Jageerdar by a stoppage from that, and I explained that I had received Your Excellency's orders to do so. Gopal Rao Bhao said, why did I bring the stipend into the discussion, that being an affair unconnected with the subject of our conversation, adding that it was proper to conciliate the Maharajah in every way, instead of having recourse to a measure so embarrassing. I replied that His Highness's troops had actually consumed a large portion of the Vinchoor Jageerdar's property which it was just and necessary that he should be reimbursed by the Maharajah. If His Highness would not pay it from the cash in his pocket there was no other remedy than that it should be settled as I had mentioned.

Anajee Bhasker then expatiated on the ancient friendship between the families of the Maharajah and the Vinchoor Chief, for whom the Maharajah, he said, felt the highest degree of interest. The ancient friendship I admitted fully; I then remarked on the contrast afforded by His Highness's late conduct towards the present Jageerdar, so directly tending to his ruin. In reply the latter intention was entirely disclaimed.

The ministers, who always make a point when they have no good arguments for the support of their side of a question of remonstrance on the part of the British Government of stating something as a counterpoise, now said that the complaints of this Government respecting the depredations of the Gaikwar's troops

in the district of Powagar, had laid over a twelve-month, but that the affair was yet unsettled. I replied by reminding them of the particular answer which I gave in writing on that affair last year, and related its purport. They asserted that much loss had been sustained and referred to a Pandit who was present, who it was stated had just arrived from that district of which he had charge. I said I was surprized that he had not at the time of the alleged aggression addressed the Resident at Baroda who was so near, instead of making references to this distance, but that as far as I had learnt from that gentleman, the Gaikwar's troops had as I had before stated, been permitted to collect forage in the Maharajah's districts and I again referred to the paper above alluded to with regard to a more recent and similar complaint. I said, that I had addressed the Resident and by the reply which I had received it appeared that no aggressions had been heard of by that gentleman, but, provided the fact should be substantiated, that he would obtain redress.

I then adverted to Your Excellency's letter which was still unanswered. The ministers said that the business would be soon settled, when a satisfactory reply would of course be transmitted to Your Excellency by me which would be better than any other, I again pointed out the necessity of a reply from His Highness and the importance of the subject of that letter. It was at length promised to be written.

I took an opportunity of remarking on the improper conduct of Jean Baptiste in leaving camp without settling with the Agent of the Vinchoor Jageerdar as the Maharajah has directed. It was at first urged on the part of Sindia that the affair had been in a great measure settled but that it was a contract between Baptiste and the Agent made without the Maharajah's knowledge and in which he therefore had no concern. I said my object was that His Highness should enforce his former orders which were issued to Jean Baptiste on that subject before he marched and oblige him to afford justice in the transaction; for which purpose I requested that the Maharajah would now grant a written order to Baptiste. To this I could not get the ministers to agree further than that he should be written to privately first. As I could see no other object in this proposal than delay, after much discussion with them (Gopal Rao Bhao, Gocul Paruk and Anajee, and occasionally a few words from Morba Hurry) I addressed myself to Sindia and asked him if he had given his permission for his order to Baptiste to be prepared. A short conversation now took place between His Highness and the ministers, and the order to Baptiste was agreed to.

Nothing further of consequence passed respecting the aggressions on the Vinchoor Jageerdar, and there was little other conversation. But just before the Atter and Betel were brought in, preparatory to taking leave, Sindia introduced the subject of his brother-in-law Hindoo Rao Ghautgeah, and requested that

I would address the Resident at Poona to solicit the exertion of his influence for the prevention of an act of injustice towards him from the Rajah of Kolapur. I take the liberty of enclosing a copy of a letter which I have addressed to Mr. Elphinstone in which I have detailed the conversation that passed on that affair.

Anna, the brother of Bukhshy Malhar Bhao, has moved towards Baptiste with a party of Cavalry, the number of which, when he marched, did not exceed 400, but it is said that more will join him. Baptiste has been negotiating with Dost Mohammad, the result of which does not yet appear. The latter is in the district of Bhilsah.

Ameer Khan has moved to the northward. By the last accounts he was within a march of Holkar's camp in one of Dowlat Rao Sindia's districts; which he has plundered completely, and every species of violence is stated to have been committed. An officer was dispatched to him from Holkar's camp to endeavour to allay the mischief, but the Khan stated his inability to control his troops. Sindiah has declared that he shall retaliate on Seronje.

To—THE HON'BLE MR. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT
POONA.

SIR,

A conference took place on the 15th instant between me and Dowlat Rao Sindia at which the Maharajah was very urgent that I should address you respecting Hindoo Rao Ghatgay, the brother of Her Highness Baezah Bye.

That you may be better enabled to form a judgment on the merits of the case, I have the honour to relate all that passed on that subject.

The Maharajah stated that the Rajah of Kolapur was acting towards Hindoo Rao with great injustice in favour of one of Hindoo Rao's relations connected with the Rajah by marriage, by dispossessing him from some of his patrimony in the Kolapur territory, for the purpose of giving it to that relation. The Maharajah did not say whether the dispossession of Hindoo Rao had actually taken place or not. I said I had understood that Hindoo Rao's lands in Kolapur were held by him under stipulations of service, by which perhaps he did not abide, which the Maharajah denied, as well as the ministers. It was urged that the property held by Hindoo Rao was originally a Royal Grant to his family; that it had afterwards been renewed by the Rajah of Kolapur, who granted a sunnud for it in the time of his father, Surje Rao, in recompence for services performed; that Hindoo Rao had continued to behave towards the Rajah in the same friendly spirit as his father, and had assisted him much particularly in his quarrels with Appa Nepanneekaur (Desai) and on one occasion

had saved his life in action. Notwithstanding which, the intrigues of the other party had supplanted him in the Rajah's good will. The subject was pressed earnestly, and I was requested by His Highness to solicit your influence with the Rajah, so that Hindoo Rao might be left in the enjoyment of his Jageer.

I said I was convinced that you would be happy to do every thing in your power for so near a connection of the Maharajah, but that this affair might be connected with the internal administration of Kolapur, in which from principle, the British Government avoided interference. I observed that Hindoo Rao was an inhabitant of the Kolapur Dominions and he might possibly have offended the Rajah. This however was not admitted and the Rajah's conduct again attributed to the reason above mentioned. I was informed that the other party had a right to some share of Caugul, but that the portion was considerably smaller than that of Hindoo Rao.

I then related what had occurred on the subject of Caugul at a late discussion between you and His Highness the Peshwa, which I learnt from your dispatch to His Excellency the Governor General of the 17th ultimo. It was stated in reply that the purport of that conversation had reached the Maharajah, but His Highness denied that Hindoo Rao had any duty to perform at Kolapur in the way of service.

In consenting to address you on this affairs, I said that I could give no assurance how you might think yourself authorised to act regarding it.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Sindhia's Camp
The 17th July 1814.

Your most obedient humble servant,
RICHARD STRACHEY,
Resident.

Letter No 21.—The letter refers to the decisions of the Governor-General as to the mode of settling Vinchoor Jagirdar's affairs and punishing Jaswant Rao Bhao, and the opinion of the Sindhia's Government.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA,

TO—THE RIGHT HON'BLE THE EARL OF MOIRA, K.G., GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, 1st September 1814.

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that I waited on Dowlut Rao Sindhia yesterday evening. Immediately on my receipt of Your Lordship's instructions, dated the 3rd ultimo, I

requested an audience, but it was put off for several reasons, chiefly ceremonies and rejoicings for the birth of a grandson to His Highness.

After a short conversation, which arose from enquiries made by the Maharajah respecting the progress of Your Excellency in your present tour. I stated that I had a communication to make to His Highness on the affair of the Vinchoor Jageerdar. The Ministers immediately repeated what they said at the last discussion on this subject, namely, that the delay which had existed in the settlement of this business was by the absence of the Peshwa from Poona on a pilgrimage, adding that he had now returned; that the affair would accordingly be settled, and the Vinchoor Jageerdar satisfied. I said, if they would allow me to say at length what I had to communicate that I should be happy to hear anything they might have to say in reply.

I then proceeded to state that Your Excellency had viewed the continued aggression on the Vinchoor Jageerdar's possessions with great forbearance in the belief that His Highness would put a stop to the cause of complaint and would settle the affair himself, in conformity to the repeated assurances which had been given, that, the protracted discussion and the appeals to His Highness's justice having produced no effect, Your Excellency had now directed me to signify to His Highness that until the affair should be adjusted in a satisfactory manner, no further payments would be made of the stipend, settled by the treaty of the 30th December 1805, nor of the pension to Jeswant Rao Bhao; that I was further directed by Your Excellency to state it to be in your consideration whether Jeswunt Rao Bho's pension should not be resumed altogether, having been justly forfeited by his reiterated and obstinate misconduct. I said that Your Excellency had not adopted this determination without reluctance, and not until it had become evident that there was no other manner of bringing the affair to a termination.

I then proposed that His Highness should dispatch Aumeens for the purpose of ascertaining, in concert with others on the part of the Vinchoor Jageerdar, the amount of the damage which had been committed from the period of the death of Jaggoo Bapoo, when Bhao succeeded to the command of the Army. I urged this as a mode of arrangement which could not fail to lead to a fair adjustment. But, I in vain endeavoured to obtain a consent to the measure. I said I regretted that I should have to communicate so unsatisfactory a reply on this point to Your Lordship in whose name my present communication was expressly made. The Ministers promised (Sindhia himself said nothing on the subject) that it should be further considered and that an answer should be communicated to me through Atmaram, or that my Monshee might come to the Durbar for the purpose of receiving it. The damage must be considerable and it is evident that there is great aversion to agree to the deputation of Aumeens, by which measure it is apprehended that an unequivocal consent to pay whatever may be

established would be implied. This equitable proposal not having been accepted, argues strongly against the disposition, which is pretended, of a readiness to afford just compensation to the Vinchoor Chief.

I then stated that the account of Jeswunt Rao Bhao's late proceedings had been received by Your Excellency with great surprise, and so impressed were you with the expediency of making an example of him that you had directed me to state to His Highness that, provided he were really actuated by a sincere wish to check the enormities of that refractory officer, a British force would be ordered to co-operate with His Highness's troops for the purpose of subduing him, and of inflicting on him cordign punishment.

This offer produced a long consultation between the Maharajah, Gopal Rao Bhao, Gokul Paruk, and Anajee Bhaskar, after which, Gopal Bhao addressed me, saying, that there was no doubt of the sincerity of the Maharaja's wish for the punishment of Jeswunt Rao Bhao, but the troops to the southward under Jean Baptiste being more than adequate to that object, there would be no occasion for the aid of a British force, that I should soon hear what would happen in that quarter, and that the relative positions of the Bhao and Baptiste I of course knew from the reports of my newswriters. He treated lightly the force of Jeswunt Rao Bhao and said that Cheetoo with his Durrah had left him, and that Jeswunt Rao's private troops alone remained. He assured me that the rebellious conduct of Jeswunt Rao Bhao would not be tolerated, and that Baptiste had received the necessary orders for the guidance of his conduct towards him. Notwithstanding this, I said I could not help remarking Baptiste's apparent inaction towards that chief, as he had already been halted some days within a march of him.

The ulterior object of Baptiste's expedition cannot but be regarded as doubtful, but judging from appearances, an attack on Bhopal seems likely. It will be in Your Excellency's recollection that in the month of April Sindhia announced an intention of sending an expedition which was then in preparation, under him, to attack the Pindaries, but it may be observed that as yet nothing has been done against them. Dost Mohammed with his Durrah has been for a long time near Bhilsa quite undisturbed, and he appears to have settled himself there, at least until the breaking up of the rains. His brother was lately in Baptiste's camp for several days where he was well received, and an agreement, it is said, took place by which a body of Dost Mohammed's Pindaries would be placed under Baptiste's orders, should the latter require their services. Two battalions and a body of horse of the troops of Kota have marched to join him, according to the agreement for an auxiliary force which was entered into by Zalim Sing. Baptiste first moved from his own territory towards Seronje which it was expected he would attack, but he had a friendly meeting with the Manager after which he advanced to Shoojawulpur where by the last accounts he remained.

Letter No. 22.—The letter along with the enclosed documents marked "Most secret" reveals the intentions of the British Government to afford protection to the Nawab of Bhopal and Chief of Saugor against the aggressive designs of Sindhia and Bhonsla, if the Nawab of Bhopal and Chief of Saugor—Nana Govind Rao—agreed to certain conditions. This was decided upon by the Governor-General since the proposal of a subsidiary alliance with Raghoji had failed.

FROM—J. ADAM, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Cawnpore, 17th October 1814.

His Excellency the Governor-General having signified to you in his dispatch of this date his determination under the final rejection by the Rajah of Nagpur of the proffered alliance, to accede to the solicitations of the Chiefs of Bhopal and Saugor for the protection of the British Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the enclosed copies of instructions which have been issued by His Excellency's command to the Resident at Delhi and to the Superintendent of Political Affairs in Bundelkund on that subject. You will hereafter receive a more detailed communication. In the meanwhile I am directed to inform you that orders have been issued for the advance of the Subsidiary Force at Jalna to Ellichpore (where it will be at hand for the support of the proposed measures) as well as for placing the Poona Subsidiary Force in a condition to march without delay to such a position as may be considered requisite for the support of the former. Instructions have also been transmitted to the Governments of Fort Saint George and Bombay adopted to the actual and contingent situation of affairs, and measures will be immediately adopted for preparing a force to be assembled on this frontier of the Honourable Company's possessions with a view to operate in such direction as circumstances may render necessary in the possible event of opposition being offered to our views by Sindhia or the Rajah of Nagpur.

The Governor-General has issued instructions to the Resident with Doulat Rao Sindia a copy of which is enclosed in this dispatch.

I am directed to take this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your dispatch No. 2 of the 16th July.

(Most Secret)

TO—C. T. METCALF, ESQUIRE, RESIDENT AT DELHI.

SIR,

The intelligence received by the Governor-General of the design of Doulat Rao Sindia and the Rajah of Nagpur to unite their forces for the avowed purpose of crushing the Nabob of Bhopal combined with the final rejection by the Rajah of the proffered subsidiary

alliance with the British Government, has induced His Excellency to resolve to endeavour without delay to effect an arrangement with the Nabob of Bhopal and with the Chief of Saugor and such other petty states in that quarter as it may be found expedient and practicable to include in the arrangement calculated to provide for the attainment of those objects which it was the wish of His Excellency to accomplish by means of a subsidiary treaty with the State of Nagpur

You will hereafter receive detailed instructions on this subject but His Excellency being desirous of availing himself of the actual presence at Delhi of a Vakeel from the Rajah of Bhopal, reported in your dispatch No 336 of the 4th ultimo, I am desirous to apprise you of the general outline of the plan which His Excellency proposes to adopt with regard to that state and to convey to you authority for opening a negotiation with the Vakeel without any delay

The Governor-General proposes to extend to the Nabob of Bhopal the protection and guarantee of the British Government against all enemies whatever; to make an immediate declaration to this effect to Doulat Rao Sindiah and the Rajah of Nagpur and require them to desist from their hostile proceedings against him, to support this declaration by the advance of an adequate force and if necessary by its active co-operation with the Nabob against his enemies to engage to recover such parts of his territories as have been seized by the Pindarries and finally to conclude a permanent engagement with the Nabob on the above principle and on the conditions on his part which I now proceed to state.

The Nabob must be required to agree to admit the British troops into his country at all times and eventually to receive a permanent British force, to cede to us a fortress or other secure place for a military depot, to afford every facility and assistance in procuring cattle, grain etc. (to be paid for at the fair market price) for the use of the British troops within his dominions, to renounce all connection whatever with the Pindarries and the Patan Freebooters in Hindustan to abstain from any negotiation or other intercourse with foreign states or powers without the privity and concurrence of the British Government, to submit all disputes to the arbitration and abide by the award of the British Government. The British Government to engage on its part to exercise no interference in the internal affairs of Bhopal and to leave the Nabob in controlled authority over his family and subjects

His Excellency apprehends that the impoverished condition of the State of Bhopal will render the Nabob unable to pay any subsidy and His Lordship has not therefore thought it necessary to include such a stipulation in the preceding sketch. If, however, you should find the Vakeel prepared to engage on his master's behalf to pay a proportion of the expense of maintaining the force which may be required for the permanent defence of his country, you will of course conclude a provision to that effect.

It you shall ascertain that the vakeel possesses full powers to act on behalf of Vazir Mahomed Khan, you are hereby empowered and directed to conclude with him in the name of the Governor-General a preliminary engagement on the basis above stated reserving the details for a definitive treaty to be executed at leisure and you will be pleased to assure the Vakeel that on the receipt of information from you of the signature of the preliminary engagement the proposed declaration will be made and the measures intended to support it, put in execution without the delay of a moment.

It will be expedient that you should commence this negotiation with a reference to the mission of the Vakeel stating that you have reported his arrival and have received His Lordship's orders to listen to any communication which he may be commissioned to make and to enter on the subject with him. The tenor of the Vakeel's proposition will it may be presumed afford you a favourable opportunity of making known to him the conditions on which the Governor-General is disposed to conclude an engagement with the Nabob, with the advantage of making them appear to arise out of the vakeel's overtures.

The Superintendent of Political Affairs in Bundelkhund will be instructed to open a negotiation with Nana Govind Rao, the Chief of Saugor, or directly with the Manager of that province directed to objects similar to those above stated.

You will be pleased to communicate by express to the Residents at the Court of Doulat Rao Sindiah and the Rajah of Nagpur and to Mr. Wauchope the result of your negotiation with the Vakeel of Vazir Mahomed Khan.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, etc.,

JOHN ADAM,

Secretary to Government.

Cawnpore :

The 14th October 1814.

(Most Secret)

To—J. WAUCHOPE, ESQUIRE, SUPERINTENDENT OF
POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN BUNDELKHUND.

SIR,

The intelligence received by the Governor-General of the design of Dowlat Rao Sindia and the Rajah of Nagpur to unite their forces for the avowed purpose of crushing the Nabob of Bhopal combined with the final rejection by the Raja of the proffered subsidiary alliance with the British Government, has induced His Excellency to resolve on the endeavour to effect without delay an arrangement with the Nabob of Bhopal and with the Chief of Saugor and such other petty states in that quarter as it may be found expedient and practicable to include in the arrangement calculated to provide,

for the attainment of those objects, which it was the wish of the Governor-General to accomplish by means of a subsidiary treaty with the State of Nagpur.

2. You will hereafter receive detailed instructions on this subject but His Excellency being desirous that a negotiation should be opened with Nana Govind Rao or the Manager of Saugor without delay, I am directed to apprise you of the general outline of the plan which the Governor-General proposes to adopt with regard to the territory and to convey to you His Excellency's authority and instructions on the subject.

3. The Governor-General proposes to extend to Saugor that protection which the more northerly possessions of Nana Govind Rao already received from the British Government and to guarantee in perpetuity the territories of the Nana against the attacks of all foreign states and power whatever on the following conditions,

4. The Nana must be required to admit the British troops into his territories at all times and eventually to receive a permanent British force into them; to place in our hands a fort or other stronghold in Saugor for a military depot, if circumstances shall render such an arrangement necessary; to afford every facility and assistance in procuring cattle, grain, etc. (to be paid for by us at the fair market price), for the use of the British troops; to abstain from all negotiation with foreign states without the privity and concurrence of the British Government; to submit all disputes to the arbitration and abide by the award of the British Government.

5. The Governor-General apprehends that the territory of Saugor might be charged with a proportion of the expense in which the proposed defence of that territory will eventually involve the British Government, but His Excellency does not consider that to be an essential part of the arrangement. At the same time, if you shall be of opinion that the Chief of Saugor is able to bear such a charge you will include a clause to that effect in the engagement which it is one of the objects of this dispatch to authorize you to conclude with Nana Govind Rao. The exact amount and mode of payment had better be reserved for future consideration, the admission of the principle being all that is considered requisite in the first instance.

6. I am now directed to desire that you will proceed without delay to open a negotiation with Nana Govind Rao or with the Manager Vinayak Rao, for the purpose of effecting an arrangement with him founded on the foregoing basis and you are hereby empowered and authorized to execute a preliminary engagement with Nana Govind Rao or his Vakeel duly authorized, leaving the details to be adjusted at leisure.

7. In communicating with the Vakeel of the Nana or of his Manager Vinayak Rao you will be pleased to refer to the disasters to which the territory of Saugor has been exposed by the incursions of the Pindarries, and the annual loss and distress which he has suffered by the ravages of those freebooters; you will observe that the Pindarries are daily increasing in numbers and strength and

audacity, that the season is now approaching when they are accustomed to make their expeditions and when the Nana's territory of Saugor will again be exposed to their barbarity; that the British Government, although precluded by the circumstances of the time from acceding to the wishes expressed on former occasions by Nana Govind Rao and his manager for the protection of the British Government, is disposed now to extend that benefit to the territory of Saugor as part of a system of measures for circumscribing the sphere of the operation of the Pindarries and is willing to guarantee it generally against all foreign attack on certain conditions which you are prepared to state bearing no comparison to the value of the boon and indeed indispensable to the due performance of the obligation to be incurred by this Government.

8. You will perceive the advantage which would be derived from giving this negotiation the appearance of originating in the expressed desire of the other party for our aid rather than letting it seem to be a spontaneous offer on the part of the British Government and you will of course in opening your negotiation avail yourself of any recent overture from the Agents of the Nana or of the Manager Vinayak Rao to connect the measure now contemplated with that circumstance or endeavour to draw from them a solicitation for our assistance. Should you not find this mode of proceeding practicable, you will open the subject in the manner prescribed in paragraph 4 of this dispatch.

9. The actual state of Govind Rao's authority in Saugor renders it advisable that you should commence your proceedings by a communication with the Manager Vinayak Rao who is understood to possess the independent control of that province although he exercises it in the name of Govind Rao. On ascertaining the Manager's disposition you will of course communicate with Nana Govind Rao in whose name the engagement must be executed.

10. The Governor-General entertains no doubt of the eagerness of the Manager to secure the protection of the British Government and he relies on your discretion and address for the adoption of the mode of proceeding best calculated to attain the objects in His Lordship's contemplation.

11. I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed copy of instructions under date the 14th instant issued to the Resident at Delhi for opening a negotiation with the Nabob of Bhopal directed to the same object as that with which you are charged.

A copy of this dispatch will be transmitted to the Residents at the courts of Doulut Rao Sindia and the Rajah of Nagpur to both of whom you will be pleased to communicate the result of your negotiation by express.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, etc.

JOHN ADAM,

Secretary to Government.

Cawnpore :

The 17th October 1814.

(True copy)

(Most Secret)

To—R. STRACHEY, ESQUIRE, RESIDENT WITH DOULAT
RAO SINDIA.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 16th ultimo, submitting for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor-General your observations and suggestions regarding the probable consequences with reference to the interests of the British Government of the reduction of Bhopal by the arms of Doulat Rao Sindia and the Rajah of Nagpur and adverting to the course of policy which it might be expedient for this Government to pursue in the present juncture. You are aware that the Governor-General has always contemplated the probability of it becoming the policy of the British Government to form an arrangement which should place the State of Bhopal under its protection, and afford to it the advantage offered by the local situation of that country as a military position, in the event of a failure in the negotiation pending at Nagpur.

His Lordship has received from the Resident at Nagpur a dispatch which will of course have been communicated to you reporting the final and decided rejection by the Rajah of the proffered alliance with the British Government and His Lordship has accordingly determined to endeavour without delay to accomplish an arrangement which shall place Bhopal and Saugar under our protection and guarantee, and as far as practicable, provide for the maintenance of those interests, which would undoubtedly have been never effectually secured by a subsidiary alliance with the State of Nagpur.

You will be apprized by the enclosed copies of instructions issued under date the 14th instant to the Resident at Delhi and of this date to the Superintendent of Political Affairs in Bundelkhand of the general outline of the plan in His Lordship's contemplation and the mode in which it is proposed to be carried into effect.

You will hereafter receive detailed instructions, but the Governor-General directs me to prepare you for an explanation with the court at which you reside on the subject of this dispatch in case it should become necessary to agitate the question before you may receive the proposed communication.

On the receipt, therefore, of information from Mr. Metcalfe and Mr. Wauchope of the adjustment of preliminaries with the Agents of the Chiefs of Bhopal and Saugar you will immediately signify to Sindia that those states have been received under the protection of the British Government and require him to desist from his enterprise against the former.

The absolute necessity imposed on the British Government of securing its own interests and those of its allies, against the growing power of the Pindarries, a necessity increased by the indifference and supineness evinced by the other established states of India, in

repressing that alarming evil, and more especially by the failure of the Maharaja in his assurances of acting against them, and even by the actual junction of a part of them with His Highness's forces, must be stated as the immediate and pressing motives for taking this step.

Doulut Rao Sindia possesses claims upon the State of Bhopal, which can entitle him to object to that state seeking its safety in an alliance with the British Government, nor is any obligation imposed on the British Government to reject the solicitations of the Nabob of Bhopal for the benefits of our protection. That the establishment of such a connection will interfere with the ambitious and rapacious views of Doulat Rao Sindhia and his Sirdars is unquestionable but no just and legitimate pretensions of His Highness is affected by it nor has he the right to oppose it.

These observations will apprise you of the general tenor of the discourse which it is the wish of the Governor-General that you should hold to Dowlut Rao Sindia, when the period shall arrive for stating to him the resolutions of the Governor-General now communicated to you and will eventually supply the place of the more particular instructions which are under preparation.

Notwithstanding the undoubted right of the British Government to effect the arrangement which forms the subject of this dispatch it is still possible that Sindia may attempt to resist a measure which will certainly curb his ambition and set limits to his views of extension of Dominion and influence in that direction. It will at all events be necessary to prepare to support our measures by the presence of an efficient force. With this view the subsidiary force at Jaulna will be ordered to march to Ellichpur whence it will be at hand to move upon Bhopaul or to operate in any other direction where it may be required. The Subsidiary Force serving with His Highness the Peshwa will also take up a position calculated to give support to the Jalna force and otherwise contribute to the execution of such ulterior operations as may be undertaken and the Governments of Fort Saint George and Bombay will be furnished with instructions adopted to the actual situation of affairs. Measures will be immediately adopted also on this frontier for having an efficient force in preparation to assemble on shortest notice in a position, where it may either deter Dowlut Rao Sindia from opposition to our views, or if he should have the timidity to resist them, may be able to act against him with rapidity and effect.

A copy of this dispatch will be transmitted to the Resident at Nagpur, to whom you will of course communicate your proceedings under the instructions which it conveys to you.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, etc.

Cawnpore :
The 17th October 1814.

JOHN ADAM,
Secretary to Government.

(True copy)

Letter No. 23.—This is only a covering letter to the dispatch from the Earl of Moira to R. Strachey explaining his attitude towards the Sindhia and the purpose of certain military dispositions ordered by him.

FROM—J. ADAM, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Lucknow, 25th October 1814.

The Governor-General deeming it proper that you should be in possession of a dispatch addressed by His Excellency to the Resident with Dowlut Rao Sindia under this date, on the subject of Sindia's recent conduct and the projected arrangement with the States of Bhopal and Saugor, I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed copy of that dispatch.

TO—R. STRACHEY, ESQUIRE, LUCKNOW.

Lucknow, 25th October 1814.

SIR,

The conduct of Doulat Rao Sindhia for some time past has necessarily attracted my vigilant attention. The equivocal nature of his procedures has obliged me to take precautionary measures which may perhaps give His Highness a degree of alarm, they were not intended to excite; therefore, I wish to explain myself distinctly to you on the subject so as to enable you, on any discussion of it with himself or his Ministers, to say that you speak directly from me.

Repeated representations have been made to His Highness by the British Government respecting the common interest which every established power in India ought to feel in suppressing that nefarious combination of Robbers—the Pindarries. Dowlut Rao Sindhia appeared to be no less sensible than we were of the urgent expedience of the step, at least, such was the tenor of his professions. The object was so evidently material to his own welfare, that it seemed idle to doubt the sincerity of his assurances of ready co-operation yet we had scarcely received his answer when we became possessed of decisive proofs that His Highness was actually proposing amicable engagements to that disgraceful confederacy. Suspicion of his ulterior purposes could not but be awakened by this conduct. Additional strength was given to the impression by His Highness's behaviour on our complaints against one of his Generals for plundering the territory of the Vinchoor Jagheerdar when the latter was declaredly under our protection. Sindiah acknowledged the justice of our remonstrance, pretended indignation against his officer, and promised us redress. Notwithstanding this, the spoliation of the Vinchoor Jagheerdar's country continued, and Jeswunt Rao did not appear to have suffered the slightest reproof. On a renewed application to His Highness, he declared his determination to punish Jeswunt Rao for positive contempt of his orders, and desired it to be intimated to the British Government that Baptiste had

instructions to reduce to submission that refractory commander. With the frank cordiality inspired by our wish to regard Dowlut Rao Sindia as a sovereign in the stability of whose Government we took an honest concern a proposal was made by us, that a corps of British troops should aid Baptiste in compelling Jeswunt Rao to obey the mandates of His Highness. It was replied that Baptiste's force was fully sufficient for the chastisement of Jeswunt Rao, which should be immediately effected. Instead of any such infliction, we see Baptiste and Jeswunt Rao meet on terms of perfect understanding and at the same time we are apprized of negotiations between Dowlut Rao Sindia and the Pindarries tending us as far as we have yet ascertained the terms, to form in fact an identity of interest between the parties. Forced by such indications of eventual hostility, we have of course resorted to the policy of putting ourselves in posture to act as circumstances may require. An army from the south is therefore ordered to assemble at Ellichpore and the Poona force is directed to advance to a position whence its measures may be taken with speed. I have not, though I could not omit provisional preparations towards it, collected a force on the southern frontier of these Provinces, because I wished to avoid the remotest appearance of anything capable of being misconstrued into menace. Anxious that Dowlut Rao Sindia's own honourable reflection should alone present to him what is due to those recorded pledges of amity subsisting between him and the British Government, and solicitous that the conduct of His Highness should display no influence but that of his just feelings, the movement of those troops to which I have alluded will be supposed only measures of foresight against the Pindarries which have been so nearly periodical, that they will excite no particular observation.

While I point at the sense which Dowlut Rao Sindia ought to have of the existing treaty, let me distinctly proclaim my own view of the obligation which that agreement imposes upon me. I should hold the good faith of that engagement by no means fulfilled by a mere forbearance from acts of aggression and from injurious interference avert or concealed. The principle plighted was real amity. Dowlut Rao Sindia has had such irresistible evidence of strict adherence on the part of the British Government to this construction that he can have no excuse for adopting another on his part. Far be it from me to insinuate that His Highness deliberately entertains any more lax opinion of the terms to which he is pledged. I only fear that he disguises from himself the inevitable tendency of some of his present objects to entail in some future day very serious differences between him and the British Government. The colour of his proceedings has already, as I have stated, constrained us to recur to a certain degree of preparation and to strengthen our position by taking the territories of Bhopal and Saugor under our protection. But I wish it to be understood that these precautions involve no disposition to hostility; on the contrary, it is my ardent wish to maintain the most sincere intercourse of reciprocal confidence and good offices with His Highness. He on his part, can

have no foundation for his power so secure as the friendship of this Government. It does indeed astonish me that having such a support for enabling him to establish a regular and well-organized Government in his Dominions and to assume the dignified character of a settled Sovereign, he should seek connections which must expose him more and more to the sort of insult he has so repeatedly suffered from his own troops. Whensoever it may be his wish to adopt such a system as would render him the father of those over whom Providence has called him to rule and would at the same time make him the real master of his army the British Government would actively co-operate in removing those obstacles to so generous and beneficent a purpose which might be attempted by any of His Highness's rebellious chieftains. We should expect but one advantage in return, yet it would be one which we should estimate so highly as to consider it the amplest reward for our exertions. I mean the removal of many causes of possible misunderstanding whence the relations between the two states have less solidity than is consistent with their mutual interests, and I trust their mutual disposition.

I have the honour to be,
Sir, etc.

MOIRA.

Letter No. 24.—The enclosure to the letter is important and contains instructions of the Government as to how John Wauchope, Superintendent of Political Affairs in Bundelkhund, should proceed to conclude a treaty with the Chief of Saugor, for securing the British protection.

FROM—J. ADAM, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Lucknow, 26th October 1814.

I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed copy of instructions issued this day to the Superintendent of Political Affairs in Bundelkhund.

TO—JOHN WAUCHOPE, ESQUIRE, SUPERINTENDENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN BUNDELKHUND.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 22nd instant from the perusal of which the Governor-General has derived great satisfaction as affording a just ground of expectation that His Excellency's views regarding Saugor will be accomplished without difficulty or delay. Your proceedings with reference to the recent overture from the Vakeel of Nana Govind Rao as described in that dispatch are entirely approved by the Governor-General.

Although the importance which the Governor-General attaches to the accomplishment of the contemplated arrangement with Nana Govind Rao will not permit His Lordship to consider the payment by the Nana of a proportion of the expense of defending Saugor by a British force as an indispensable condition of the engagement which you have been authorized to conclude with that chief, it is

no doubt in the highest degree advisable that a reasonable proportion of the charge should be borne by the Nana and you will be pleased to use every endeavour not likely to interrupt the negotiation, to include a provision to that effect

Territorial security for the payment is in every point of view the most desirable mode of arranging this affair and it is peculiarly recommended in the present instance by the opportunity which it will afford of annexing to the Honourable Company's dominion those insulated portions of the Nana's territory referred to in your dispatch. You will accordingly be pleased to consider yourself to be authorized to endeavour to obtain the Nana's consent to bear a proportion of the charge of the British Troops to be employed for the protection of Saugor, but without pressing it in such a manner as to risk a rupture of the negotiation, and to obtain territorial security for the payment by the cession on the part of the Nana of such of his lands as are intermixed with the possessions of the Honourable Company. You will of course advert to the inconvenience recently experienced by the position of a part of the Nana's territory between the Honourable Company's territory and the district of Koonch and consider the practicability of including a part of that territory in the proposed cession.

It will be desirable to take the present opportunity of preventing the recurrence of that species of misconduct on the part of the Nana and his subjects of which the British Government has recently had occasion to complain by inserting in the proposed engagement a stipulation binding the Nana more strictly to admit of our arbitration in such cases and to abide by our award and compel his subjects to respect it. This may probably be received with convenience for the definitive arrangements with the Nana, but on this point you will be pleased to exercise your own discretion.

I have the honour to be,
Sir, etc.

JOHN ADAM,
Secretary to Government.

Lucknow :
The 26th October 1814.

Letter No. 25.—The enclosure to this letter reports to the Governor-General a summary of the discussions that the Resident had with the Sindhia and his ministers regarding the recent engagements with the Nawab of Bhopal. The views expressed by the Ministers of the Sindhia reveal their displeasure. The Resident requested that an order might be issued by the Sindhia for the recall of Baptiste from Bhopal.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO
SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp, 30th November 1814.

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of my dispatch of this date to His Excellency the Governor-General.

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE EARL OF MOIRA.

MY LORD,

Having received from the Superintendent of Political Affairs in Bundelkhund a copy of Vazir Mohummod Khan's acceptance of the proposals which were made to him, I waited on Dowlut Rao Sindhia last night for the purpose of communicating to His Highness on that subject, agreeably to your Excellency's instruction.

After a short conversation, on my part chiefly of replies to questions respecting your Excellency's movements, I entered on the subject by saying that His Highness would have learnt from Atmaram how anxious I had been that the audience which I had requested should not be delayed, the reason of which I would now explain. I then stated that your Excellency had deemed it necessary to establish an intimate connection with Bhopal, and knowing that Baptiste was now on the frontier of that state, I was (torn) to intimate the same to His Highness at the earliest moment, so that the dominions of Vazir Mahoomud Khan might suffer no molestation, a circumstance to which they were of course liable while that army remained so immediately contiguous to them. Gopal Rao Bhao replied by asking what was the meaning of this measure. I then proceeded to state that the reason which had induced your Excellency to adopt it was absolute necessity, that you could not but view the daily increasing power of the Pindaries without apprehension for the safety of the British possessions and those of our allies, that you had noticed the entire failure of every attempt of the Native States to subdue them, in short that your Excellency found yourself forced to consider what was best for the safety of the British possessions and to endeavour to avert the mischief which was threatened on all sides by the aggrandizement of the Pindaries.

Great attention seemed to be paid to what I said by Dowlut Rao Sindhia and his ministers. Gopal Rao Bhao asked how we had hitherto managed to protect ourselves from the Pindaries. I said that their power had been gradually increasing for a long time past, that they were now more formidable than ever, and that if they had shown themselves capable of carrying on their depredations, nearly at the same period, to Meerzapur and to Surat it was surely time to adopt measures of precaution, and to be prepared for what might happen. Gopal Rao Bhao said that to be prepared against the Pindaries might be necessary. He here made use of severe expressions denoting surprize at my communication respecting Bhopal. He then questioned our right to receive that state under our protection, saying that the country of Bhopal was the Maharajha's, whenever he might please to take it.

Gopal Bhao and Annajee Bhasker both stated that the chief of Bhopal was a dependant of the Maharajah. I replied I could not admit that, Bhopal being an ancient independant state, and I denied any claim whatever of Sindia on the Bhopal dominion which they asserted (contrary to the truth) to have been conquered and restored by His Highness to Vazir Mahommed Khan on his

good behaviour. Gopal Rao Bhao said if we established ourselves at Bhopal, where might we not go next, and to what part of His Highness's dominions might we not pretend? that Bhopal and the Maharajah's district of Bhilsa joined and were intermixed; in short that there was no difference between them. I replied that we could have no concern with Bhilsa or any other of the Maharajah's possessions, but that about our right to enter into an alliance with the state of Bhopal not a doubt could be admitted.

The ministers asked of what use could so insignificant a state as Bhopal be to us. I said I had already explained this point, besides which they knew that we had alliances with other petty states, which we found to be highly useful.

They then said that our views did not appear confined to what I had stated; that we might, possibly, have a design to establish our authority everywhere, and that what I had now communicated was contrary to the treaties, between the two Governments. I replied by referring to what I had before stated to be your Excellency's object in forming the alliance with Bhopal, a measure essential to our safety. I said, it seemed odd that our right to form such a connection should be disputed, particularly as we had not interfered with His Highness's conquests and extension of influence in the vicinity of our own territories. I denied that there was any infraction of treaties. I stated it was your Excellency's sincere wish to interpret them in the most favourable manner to the Maharajah's Government, and to preserve a genuine spirit of friendship towards His Highness, that, although I was convinced of their being no variation whatever from our engagements, I said, I should be happy now to hear any comments they might have to make on that point, and that I would immediately give such explanation as might be necessary.

About this period of the conversation (which was chiefly with Gopal Rao Bhao, Anajee Bhaskar, and Gocul Parukh) Sindia spoke to Gopal Rao Bhao, who afterwards addressed me, saying, that the Maharajah had observed, that detaching Bhopal from him and appropriating it to ourselves was an extraordinary sort of friendship, that His Highness requested I would write to your Excellency acquainting you of what had now passed and of His Highness's claims on Bhopal, and ascertain what would then be your Excellency's intentions in this affair, after which His Highness would be enabled to determine with regard to his own. My reply was, that I had already fully submitted to His Highness the object of your Excellency in receiving Bhopal under the protection of the British Government and again stating that I could not agree to what had been urged respecting the Maharajah's relations with that state. I expressed in strongest terms your Excellency's desire to strengthen the ties of amity now existing with His Highness, which friendly sentiments your Excellency had written to me with your own hand, and I added that I trusted His Highness believed me in that respect sincerely bent on promoting your Lordship's wishes. The ministers replied, it was to be hoped that friendship would be lasting between the two states.

Mr. Jenkins's note of the 11th ultimo, and, according to a statement of its purport which I have received, is to the following effect. "That we had required the Rajah not to attack Bhopal, and to prohibit Siddeek Ali Khan from joining Baptiste for purposes hostile to that state; that our troops in the Deccan had occupied very advanced positions (which were named) and that they would be followed by others; that our designs appeared doubtful; that we had required the Rajah to receive a body of our troops into his pay; that the Rajah had postponed giving his reply until he were informed of Sindhia's view of affairs, and that he would be guided by the Maharajah's advice. News respecting the war in Nepal was also requested."

2. The above information cannot be depended on implicitly as giving the contents of the letter from the Rajah of Nagpur, but I have little doubt that its tenor and that of the letters of the Maharajah's ministers which accompanied it, is nearly what has been stated.

3. The dispatch from Nagpur has given rise to much consultation at the Durbar. The Nagpur Vakeel, who is pressing for a reply has been assured of receiving one at the earliest moment consistent with the deliberation which the subject requires. Various plans are stated to have been agitated, but nothing has yet been determined on.

4. Baptiste has halted at Ujjain. Sutwas was occupied by one of his Detachments, but the guns had been carried off by Cheetoo in his retreat and a small Garrison only left in the place. No Pindaries now remain in their old haunts in that neighbourhood.

5. Jeswant Rao Bhow and the Pindaries have retreated to Jeerun near Javud, and it is believed that they are moving to Koombhalmer. Their force is considerably more numerous than that of Baptiste, but they show every desire to avoid a new encounter with him.

6. Holkar's officer Ram Din, who commands a force on the frontier of Guzerat, lately levied a contribution at Daowd and plundered other parts of Dowlat Rao Sindhia's territory in that quarter; in consequence of which Baptiste has written to Holkar complaining of Ram Din's conduct, and to Ram Din threatening him with an immediate attack should he further molest the Maharajah's possessions.

7. Shoojawalpore has been made over by Baptiste to Daji Poatnavis, an officer of the Maharajah now in his Camp. That place (which belongs to the Peshwa) had been taken from the Pindaries by Jeswant Rao Bhow, and the authority of Doun Singh, his principal commandant of Infantry, was established there.

8. The unfortunate Rana of Udaipur is suffering from the exactions of Jamsheed Khan, one of Amir Khan's officers, by whom he has been treated with great indignity. Among other outrages committed by Jamsheed Khan he has put to death Sirdar Singh, an Udaipore Chief of rank.

It was observed by Gopal Rao Bhao that the measure with respect to Bhopal on the part of the British Government was a step to new aggrandizement, for that Bhopal itself could be of no use to us. I thought it unnecessary to enter into further explanations on that point, than by replying that Bhopal was near the haunts of the Pindaries, on whom there would accordingly now be some check in that quarter, while our frontier of Behar and Bengal would be secure against their incursions than hitherto.

It was now asked whether Vazier Mahommod Khan would be responsible for the depredations of the Pindaries who were with him. The latter, Gopal Rao Bhao said, had fought against Baptiste in his action with Jeswant Rao Bhao, and it would be necessary for Baptiste to punish them. I replied that their exclusion from the Bhopal territories would be pledged by the British Government, as well as that no aggression on the part of Vazier Mahommod Khan would take place on the possession of the Maharajah.

I then requested that His Highness would issue an order to Baptiste directing him to respect the Bhopal territory. To this proposal, during considerable discussion, I could get nothing but evasive answers, for instance, that the subject should be further discussed and a reply given hereafter, that I should be furnished with one on the receipt of an answer from your Excellency, that an answer should be given after the treaties were examined. I at length said, that this was a point which would not admit of delay and that I could not presume to transmit so equivocal a communication to your Excellency. I was now promised an answer on the following day, and it was settled that my Munshi should attend the Durbar this afternoon for the purpose of receiving it.

Our conference here ended. I have endeavoured to relate to your Excellency everything that passed, and I believe I have omitted nothing of consequence.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

R. STRACHEY, Resident.

Sindhia's Camp
The 30th Nov 1814.

Letter No 26.—The letter refers to the activities of Jean Baptiste, the Pindaries, and the affairs in Udaipur and other parts of Rajputana.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE EARL OF MOIRA, K.G., GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, 15th January 1815

Dowlat Rao Sindhia has received from Rajah Ragojee Bhonsla the communication which was to have been expected from the tenor of Mr Jenkins's late dispatches to your Excellency. The Rajah's letter is stated to have been accompanied by a copy of

Mr. Jenkins's note of the 11th ultimo, and, according to a statement of its purport which I have received, is to the following effect. "That we had required the Rajah not to attack Bhopal, and to prohibit Siddeek Ali Khan from joining Baptiste for purposes hostile to that state; that our troops in the Deccan had occupied very advanced positions (which were named) and that they would be followed by others; that our designs appeared doubtful; that we had required the Rajah to receive a body of our troops into his pay; that the Rajah had postponed giving his reply until he were informed of Sindhia's view of affairs, and that he would be guided by the Maharajah's advice. News respecting the war in Nepal was also requested."

2. The above information cannot be depended on implicitly as giving the contents of the letter from the Rajah of Nagpur, but I have little doubt that its tenor and that of the letters of the Maharajah's ministers which accompanied it, is nearly what has been stated.

3. The dispatch from Nagpur has given rise to much consultation at the Durbar. The Nagpur Vakeel, who is pressing for a reply has been assured of receiving one at the earliest moment consistent with the deliberation which the subject requires. Various plans are stated to have been agitated, but nothing has yet been determined on.

4. Baptiste has halted at Ujjain. Sutwas was occupied by one of his Detachments, but the guns had been carried off by Cheetoo in his retreat and a small Garrison only left in the place. No Pindaries now remain in their old haunts in that neighbourhood.

5. Jeswant Rao Bhow and the Pindaries have retreated to Jeerun near Javud, and it is believed that they are moving to Koombhalmer. Their force is considerably more numerous than that of Baptiste, but they show every desire to avoid a new encounter with him.

6. Holkar's officer Ram Din, who commands a force on the frontier of Guzerat, lately levied a contribution at Daowd and plundered other parts of Dowlat Rao Sindhia's territory in that quarter; in consequence of which Baptiste has written to Holkar complaining of Ram Din's conduct, and to Ram Din threatening him with an immediate attack should he further molest the Maharajah's possessions.

7. Shoojawalpore has been made over by Baptiste to Daji Poatnavis, an officer of the Maharajah now in his Camp. That place (which belongs to the Peshwa) had been taken from the Pindaries by Jeswant Rao Bhow, and the authority of Doun Singh, his principal commandant of Infantry, was established there.

8. The unfortunate Rana of Udaipur is suffering from the exactions of Jamsheed Khan, one of Amir Khan's officers, by whom he has been treated with great indignity. Among other outrages committed by Jamsheed Khan he has put to death Sirdar Singh, an Udaipore Chief of rank.

Letter No. 27.—The letter refers to the negotiations between the Pindari Chiefs and Dowlat Rao Sindhia, and the proposal for a union between the Sindhia, Holkar and Bhopal.

A copy of this letter was sent to R. Jenkins, Resident at Nagpur.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—THE EARL OF MOIRA, GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp, 1st March 1815.

I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that about the same period that the Pindary Chiefs Namdar Khan and Cheetoo transmitted to me the overture which I lately reported to your Excellency through Mr. Adam, they forwarded proposals of a similar nature to Dowlat Rao Sindhia. The Maharajah in reply has given them a promise that he will attend to their request should the negotiation which is now pending between Baptiste and Jeswant Rao Bhow terminate (as Sindhia is evidently anxious that it should amicably), desiring that in the mean time they will remain quiet and abstain from plundering the neighbouring countries.

2. Sindhia has written to Jeswant Rao Bhow in conciliatory terms, and has desired Baptiste to avoid further hostilities with him if possible. It is proper to observe, however that the Maharajah's favourite wife Baeczah Bye, whose influence with His Highness is great, solicits the transfer to her brother, Hindoo Rao, Ghantkeah, of some of the best part of Jeswant Rao Bhow's lands. Hindoo Rao lately arrived from Poona and is now at Ujjain.

3. The Vakeel of Rajah Raghoji Bhonsla has complained much of late of Sindhia's general conduct towards his Minister, whom he states to have been deceived and ruined by attending to the Maharajah's advice; he says that the Rajah is unable to comprehend His Highness's proceedings and his policy, and that he perceives with concern the hostility of two of the Maharajah's principal officers towards each other, adverting also to the rumoured approach of the forces of the Peshwa and the British Government from the Southward. The Vakeel has received evasive replies, with assurances that the Maharajah is neither inattentive to the events of the present moment, nor to the Rajah's interests.

4. I am informed that in a conversation at the Durbar, on the 25th ultimo, the subject of Tantiah Aliakur's mission to the Court of Dowlat Rao Sindhia was mentioned, when the Ministers stated their concurrent opinions on the good policy of union between the Maharajah, Holkar, and the Bhonsla, so that the existence of an alliance, in appearance at least of the three powers be publicly known; to which Sindhia asserted, saying that he considered it to be an important object.

5. Ramdin has quitted Sindhia's possessions in Guzerat, and has retired to Baunswarra.

6. Sindhia has nominated Bhagwant Rao to the office of Subehdar of Gwalior. He bears the character of a skilful commander and for the last two years has been employed in the province in reducing numerous forts belonging to Zemeendars, whose allegiance was doubtful, and in dispossessing others whose lands Sindhia thought it would be convenient to seize. Bhagwant Rao is certainly a brave and active officer, but like most Marathas he has a strong disposition to predatory habits.

Letter No. 28.—The letter, a copy of which was sent to R. Jenkins, conveys information about the arrival of an agent from Ranjit Singh at the court of Sindhia. His name is Sukha Singh and he came with a request from his master for a good physician and some good Deccanee horses. Some secret political motive is suspected to be the real aim of the mission.

FROM—G. WELLESLEY, ACTING RESIDENT WITH
DOULAT RAQ SINDHIA.

TO—JOHN ADAM, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Sindhia's Camp, 3rd March 1816.

On receiving a copy of Mr. Metcalfe's dispatch to your address No. 450 relating to Bhim Rao's proceedings on his mission to Lahore, and reporting his return from the Punjab towards this Camp, I directed my attention to that person's movements, and to the object of ascertaining the nature of his agency and communications. The following circumstances have come to my acquaintance.

2. Bhim Rao was first reported to have arrived in Camp on the 20th November accompanied by Sooka Singh a Vakeel on the part of Ranjit Singh, from whom they brought letters and presents for Dowlat Rao Sindhia. At their audience a few days afterwards they presented the assignments; the letters were written one in Persian and the other in Hindi. I have not succeeded in discovering the contents of the latter, the former it appears was concluded in these terms :

"That suffering in his health as usual, he (Ranjit Singh) requested His Highness to send him a trustworthy physician to attend him; and having heard of the excellence of Deccany Horses, he would thank His Highness to send him some good ones. For the rest that he referred him to Bhim Rao's communications."

3. At a subsequent audience a few days afterwards Sukha Singh (I understand) stated on behalf of his principal.

"That his master considering with himself the occupation and embarrassment occasioned him by continual disputes on account of Attock, and the hostile disposition of its inhabitants, was thinking of entering into terms with the Vazir Fateh Khan, to whom he would restore Attock to be enabled to obtain the Kashmir tribute, and effect the conquest of Multan. That he had therefore sent his Vakeel to Fateh Khan whose minister Godar Mull was come to Attock, while the Vazeer himself and the King were marching from Kabul. That until he knew the result of the negotiation he should employ himself in subduing Akbar Khan, the Poonchwala, and others. That Jodh Singh's brother had presented a horse and elephant and had been well received. That the fortune of the British Government was at present predominant, on which account his master outwardly paid great respect to that Government, and recommends the same conduct to be observed by His Highness, and observes that if their respective Vakeels reside at each others courts, by keeping up communications and the transmission of presents the relations between them will be improved and strengthened."

4. The Vakeel was assured that enquiries should be made for the Physician and Dukhun horses, and of receiving answers to his master's letters. Upon Sukha Singh's retiring, the Ministers were desired to present him with two hundred Rupees and entertainment.

5. During the intermediate period the Vakeel has been constantly pressing for replies to his master's letters, that he may return to the Punjab in conformity to the orders he has received from thence. His frequent applications have always been met, as all by procrastination, until at length his exhausted he loaded his baggage with the resolution of going off without further delay. Under these circumstances he was granted his audience of leave and dismissed honourably, bearing letters and presents from Sindhia to his master, with an assurance of His Highness's intention of looking out for the Physician and some real good Deccany horses, which had been hitherto sought for without success. The letters for Ranjit Singh I understand were likewise written in Persian and Hindi.

6. The foregoing account is the apparent history of this Vakeel's mission from his arrival to his dismissal. With respect to any secret object and proceedings I have received sufficient evidence to induce me to give credit to Mr Metcalfe's statement and to be assured that private communications have passed between the two Courts. The object of both parties it would seem is to cherish a mutual friendship and intimacy with a view to counteract any danger which may arise to either from the power of the British Government. The nature of the relations they have established upon that basis of policy, as far as I have been able to discover, consists in general the engagements of mutual support in time of need, and in progress of the same policy, they agree to keep up a

constant and confidential intercourse. Hence they are in the habit of communicating to each other freely the general posture of their respective foreign relation.

7. I would not be understood to assert that they have ratified any specific terms of mutual obligation, but that the foregoing object is comprehended and expressed by the parties as the principal of their intercourse. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council will not probably consider it an erroneous opinion, that a sense of apprehension has gone far in teaching the greater Native States the knowledge, in spirit if not no theory, of a balance of political interests throughout India. Their late endeavours have evidently aimed at raising a counterpoise to British might by means of a League of their severally inferior powers; but they do not reflect that the ordinary and natural tendency of such endeavours is to verify the fears, against which they thus think to secure themselves. Nor do they consider that the force of their spell would be already dissolved before it had time to operate; and when once dissolved that they are not gifted with the qualities, which might lead to its restoration, on the contrary that they would have to combat the prevalence of those very qualities, which would best tend to prevent its efficacious re-establishment. I allude to the effects of moral virtues which I think to be highly in favour of the British Government, that the alleged parties would be scantily endowed with those advantages; nor yet would they contend with the advantage of superior physical means.

8. In my dispatch of the 1st ultimo I described the affairs of this Court to be swayed by two distinct Councils, the one composed of the Regular Administration, the other of various characters. Foreign affairs and correspondence are chiefly directed by the Counsels of the latter, who discover a strong propensity towards intrigue and clandestine transactions. The other party on the contrary dissuade from such Counsels as dangerous rather than useful. That I understand long ago advised the dismissal of the Lahore Vakeel on the ground of the present inutility of such intercourse, while the nature of the Mission would generate suspicion in the mind of the British authorities. Sindhia sometimes allows himself to be governed by the advice of one party, and sometimes by that of the other; he seems to have hesitated in this instance by which he should regulate his conduct towards the Vakeel. It is to be observed that Sindhia takes much interest in the accounts which he regularly receives of what passes in the Punjab.

9. I shall transmit a copy of this dispatch to the Resident at Delhi with the view of enabling him to pursue his enquiries and observations with the assistance of the clue herein afforded.

P.S. It appeared to me at first that the "Trustworthy Physician" might have some analogy to the "Gwalior Physician" of Mr. Strachey's dispatch of the 21st June 1815, but the context of the subsequent proceedings does not warrant the suspicion, that the two physicians are in any degree connected.

Letter No 29.—The enclosure to this letter contains information regarding the efforts of the Sindhia to conciliate the Rajput Chiefs, the condition of his own troops and Government, his attitude towards the Nagpur state and the latest irruption of the Pindaries, who during the three months ending 1st May raided the Deccan as far as Mysore in the West to Raj-Mahundry in the East.

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOULAT RAO
SINDHIA

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY THE EARL OF MOIRA, GOV
ERNOR-GENERAL.

Gwalior, the 9th May 1816

My late dispatches will have informed your Excellency of the measures which have been contemplated here for the purpose of enabling the Rajput states to emancipate themselves from the control which Meer Khan has been for sometime endeavouring to establish over them.

2 The negotiations on their part with Sindhia and the reception which their overtures met with here were such as to induce Meer Khan sometime ago to address a letter to Sindhia couched in conciliating terms and expressive of his anxiety to remove all source of disagreement between them. He added by way of making a greater impression upon His Highness's mind that his only object was to find means to maintain his troops and that this ought not to excite His Highness's jealousy as they might one day become of service to himself. To this an answer was lately sent saying that Meer Khan's conduct in other quarters did not at all correspond with the professions which he thought proper to make here, that His Highness had therefore little confidence in them and that if he was sincerely desirous of bringing about a good understanding, it could only be done by his retiring from the Rajput states and by serving Holkar's Government as a faithful servant.

3 Before this there appeared some reason to doubt Sindhia's wish to see Meer Khan's power , though it was natural enough that he should a partial reduction of it, but so vague, uncertain and variable are the views of this Government that it is now doubtful whether its principal object is to over grown power of Meer Khan or merely advantage of the times to secure some pecuniary consideration for itself. Perhaps both may be combined and the actual march of the body of Infantry from this place which I have before mentioned, as having been put in a state of readiness to move, is a proof of some more fixed determination than usually pervades Sindhia's Councils. This seems the more probable from some intelligence which has excited His Highness's attention of certain overtures reported to have been made by the Rajah of Jaipore to the British Government, and he seems to have been to his present movement by the hope that if relieve the Rajah,

the latter would not then be disposed to make any sacrifices to obtain our support. This surmise is supported by an intention which is now entertained of refraining from making any extravagant demands upon the Rajah at present and by the orders which I hear have been sent to Bapoo Sindhia to conciliate the Rajputs by every means in his power and not to discourage them by any conduct which may interrupt the harmony that Sindhia wishes to preserve with them. If the Sindhia's orders should not be obeyed, the Rajpoots may naturally distrust his intentions but in his intercourse with their Vakeels here, a great anxiety is shown to convince them of his sincerity in relieving them, and no measure is so likely to produce that effect as the march of the troops which has just taken place.

4. With such an appearance of a resolution on His Highness's part to assist the Rajputs, his object may be obtained without actually coming to extremities with Meer Khan who probably may not consider himself equal to the double object of subduing the Jaipore Government which appears to be acting with some show of steadiness just now, and at the same time to resist the Army under Bappooji Sindhia, which with the reinforcement now sent from hence, with the proposed junction of Jeswant Rao Bhow, and with the addition of a body of horse and foot which sometime ago left the Jodhpur service and has been negotiating for its employment by this Government, which nominally at least amount to a considerable number. Under Meer Khan's present distresses, (having been forced by the mutiny of his own Army to fly to Rajah Bahadur's Camp and place himself under the protection of his Infantry and Guns) nothing but some signal success of his own or some extraordinary supineness on the part of his enemies can ever enable him to maintain his ground and he may therefore retire leaving the field open to Sindhia who will then be at liberty to regulate his proceedings according to the disposition which he finds prevalent in the Jaipore Durbar.

5. If Sindhia really believes the Rajah likely to be impelled by Meer Khan's invasion to solicit your Lordship's protection, he will probably feel strongly interested in compelling Meer Khan to retire from that country, even though he should not have the spirit to force him to abandon his claims upon the other Rajput states. The employment of Bapoojee Sindhia on this service is thought here to militate against there being any serious design of acting with energy against Meer Khan, as there has always appeared a good understanding between them in consequence of a curious inter-marriage between their families but His Highness may nevertheless hope to intimidate Meer Khan by this show of vigor in the first instance and after to procure from the Rajput states some indemnification for his present exertions of which no doubt great merit and use will be made in establishing a ground for future claims and extortion. Some offers of money have already been made by both the states of Jodhpore and Jaipore, but the negotiations on this head have not as I learn been yet brought to any specific termination.

6. Occasional meetings have taken place of late between the Rajah of Nagpur's Vakeel and Dowlat Rao Sindhia's ministers, but they do not appear to have had any object beyond the usual expressions of feeling consequent upon the Rajah's death. Letters however have been prepared by His Highness which mark that degree of interest which the late events at Nagpur might naturally be supposed to excite in the durbar. Both Sindhia and Hindu Rao Ghatguy have written I understand to the present Rajah as well as to Appa Sahib recommending in strong terms to the former that he should adhere to the principles and follow in the steps of his father and to the latter that he should unite with his consent in preserving a spirit of unanimity amongst the Ministers and officers of Government, and that he should in all things act with the knowledge and concurrence of his sovereign. The present form of the administration at Nagpur, is what has been considered here as most natural from the first, besides being thought the best adopted for the general interests of the Maharatta states from whence it is clear that no suspicion whatever has yet been entertained of the views which are ascribed to Appa Sahib. When however they do become known, His Highness must certainly regard them with pain and regret and he will therefore in all probability endeavour to thwart them by every exertion of secret intrigue. In the meantime I am assured that no letters have as yet gone from hence except those already stated. As a measure of decency and conciliation, two or three horses have lately been accepted by Dowlat Rao Sindhia which arrived from Nagpur sometime ago but were until now looked upon (or pretended to be so) as presents very unworthy of the Rajah to send or His Highness to receive. By this appearance of dissatisfaction I suppose His Highness only meant to arrogate a tone of superiority which he has sometimes been accustomed to do in his transactions with that state.

7. Accounts have arrived here of the return of the Pindaris to their usual stations from their late successful irruption into the southern provinces. Their proceedings have excited no kind of uneasiness or concord here, and it will not fail to strike your Lordship, amidst the different objects which at present divide the attention of this Government how utterly regardless it shows itself of the conduct of those freebooters who always find a certain asylum within its territories. I have received no particular accounts of them myself as yet, except that they brought off with them two European Prisoners on their return, a report which has been conveyed to me from different quarters. I have in consequence taken an opportunity of expressing to the durbar my expectations for their enlargement, and in doing so I hope I have only anticipated your Lordship's wishes. There is a party of Pindaris as your Lordship already knows, serving with Baptiste at Raghogarh and their numbers are likely to be increased, now that the main bodies of them have recrossed the Nerbudda. By my accounts from the southward an attack appears to have been meditated on the Rajah of Nagpur's possessions by Cheetoo on account of the unsettled

state of Government which he supposed must be due to the death of the late Rajah. With this view he endeavoured to engage Muzhar Buksh in his plans, but the latter replied that he could not join him in such an expedition because of his being already under an engagement to.....his followers to Baptiste. Notwithstanding such open occurrences an attempt is I understand here made to veil these iniquitous proceedings by the shallow artifice of sending an order to Baptiste not to employ those freebooters.

8. I will not trespass on your Lordship's time by recounting the pecuniary difficulties, the mutinies and the numerous embarrassments to which this Government continues to be subject, any further than to say that some of the principal Sillehdars have been on the eve of leaving the service and that the prospect of their quitting it has obliged the minister to issue some money to the troops. That Sindhia's Battalions under Major Mohan Singh near Ujjain have been for sometime in a state of open mutiny, have cast off all control and are now plundering the surrounding country, and that Jeswant Rao Bhow was lately compelled to escape from his Army and throw himself into a fort in Mewar leaving the troops uncertain how to act without a leader and in a state of the utmost confusion and disorder. These outrages however will of course cease as they have often done before, on the application of some temporary remedies; their frequent recurrence only shows how the dangerous principles of predatory war are fostered and kept alive under the loose associations of which the Marhatta Government on this part of India are composed.

9. I was about to close this dispatch when I received accounts of the Pindaries from the Southward. They are of no importance further than as they show the rumours that are circulated throughout the country and may enable your Excellency to judge of the effect which may be produced by them. From Bhopal it is said that on the return of the Luhbur from the Southward they were attacked and pursued by a Regiment of Cavalry, that several of the Pindaries were killed, that many more escaped with their plunder and that about 50 men were taken prisoners. From Seronze, it is stated, that the followers of the three principal leaders Namdar Khan, Cheetoo and Muzhar Buksh crossed the Nerbudda together on their march to the southward; that they passed down near Asseer, and pursued their march by Burhanpore and Aurangabad. That moving down nearly midway between Poona and Hyderabad (leaving the first 8 marches to the right and the latter to marches to the left) they passed near Mirritch and through Shanoor Bancapoor where they plundered with success but carried off nothing but gold, silver and the richest cloths; that they thence proceeded to Sonda Bednore where they likewise procured a good deal of plunder of the same kind and moved on several marches towards Seringapatam, meeting with no opposition whatever from the inhabitants of the country. That on their return they fell in with some English battalions between the Toombuddra and the Kistna when

an Action ensued in which many were killed on both sides, that they then swept the country in a line passing by Hyderabad, Masulipatam Rajahmundry and Sicacole, and that from within 4 coos of the ocean they turned their course towards Nirmal and passing up between Amraoti and Sewnee on the Srinagar Road they recrossed the Nerbudda at Babye Bangra and re-entered their cantonments on the 2nd of Jumaoosaunee or the 1st of May, after an of three months which they had this bold expedition,

Letter No. 30.—In the enclosure to this letter addressed to the Governor-General, Close narrates his discussions with Atmaram about the attitude of the Sindhia in respect of the Pindaries, the possibility of a treaty of the British with Jaipur, and the exploit of the Raja Jai Singh of Raghogarh.

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOULAT RAO SINDHIA,

TO—R. JENKINS RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Gwalior, 10th June 1815

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of my dispatch of the 8th instant to the Governor-General.

Gwalior, June 8th 1816.

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY THE EARL OF MOIRA, K. G., GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

MY LORD,

A day or two ago I requested that Atma Ram Pandit would visit me as I wished to communicate with him on some points of minor consequence on which it was necessary I should know Dowlat Rao Sindhia's determination.

2 Some of them are of too little moment to trouble your Excellency with but I first called his attention to the Europeans (being British subjects) who are in the Maharajah's service and I requested to know whether His Highness had taken any steps regarding their dismissal since my last communication to the durbar I was urged I said to recall this subject to his attention notwithstanding the disposition which had already been shown to meet your Lordship's expectations, from a report I had received of another European having very lately been entertained by Baptiste. Atmaram said that His Highness had given orders in conformity to my first application, but that he understood there were only a few Armenians or one or two Dutchmen in the service who he hinted had done nothing to deserve reprehension, he begged however as he had done before, that I would point out the

obnoxious persons that the necessary step might be taken regarding them; the notoriety of the fact I had stated, was I said such as to render any discussion upon it perfectly unnecessary, that if I were to send people into Baptiste's Camp I could then indeed name individuals, but that it was not for me to point out this or that man, as....., that I required would be effected by a sincere desire on His Highness's part to observe that clause of the Treaty of Surjee Anjangaon which had hitherto been so completely overlooked by him; Atmaram said that it was His Highness's intention to discharge from his service all those to whom I had allowed. Had I mentioned the names of the persons of the description who are in the service of this Government means might be found of evading my request. I have therefore preferred stating the question generally at first, reserving to myself the.....of being more particular hereafter as occasion may require.

3. Atma Ram afterwards observed at his own account, that nothing determinate had been ascertained regarding the Englishwith the Pindaries; he assured me, however, that the necessary enquiries were in forwardness, but His Highness wished to say nothing on the subject until he was certain of the fact of there being such prisoners and of their release. My own enquiries on that head have not been successful as yet, what I have heard being only sufficient to keep up suspicion without leading to any satisfactory conclusion.

4. I took occasion to observe to Atmaram that as he had introduced the mention of Pindaries I could not but notice the prevalent reports here of some bodies of them having again returned south of the Nerbudda and gone.....by Burhanpore; that no notice whatever has to be taken here of their proceedings and that.....amazed at the Maharajah's supineness in.....nothing to restrain them. I observed on the.....short sighted policy of His Highness whose.....it did not become to confine his views to the.....day; that he ought to adopt some measures which should tend to the future respectability and permanency of his government. Atma Ram as usual readily admitted all this and talked of the British Government's proposing some plan of action against the Pindaries, but I pointed out how unreasonable such an expectation was, saying that all the neighbouring states looked towards Sindhia to suppress an evil that took its rise within his own territories, and that seeing how difficult it was of execution to this Government it had long been a matter of surprise to me that no advances had been made by His Highness to obtain the co-operation of the British Government, particularly as your Lordship's favourable disposition towards His Highness was well known by the many proofs which Sindhia had received of it.

5. Atmaram observed that the Maharajah had in his own mind formed the resolution of acting with effect against the Pindaries and had in conversation thrown out hints of his desire

that while he should stop up the ghats on this side of the Ner-budda, we should do so on the other. I asked him however of what possible use such a temporary and partial expedient could be, which in fact would be found to leave the Pindaries as much at liberty as ever. He then said in an indistinct manner that the plan I had recommended had not escaped His Highness's contemplation, but that he was both to come forward as his plans were not yet ripe and that if once references were made to your Lordship and His Highness should afterwards find that he could not act with all the promptitude required of him, his situation would be very awkward. His Highness I admitted ought undoubtedly to give the subject all the deliberation it required, but that he should come to some decided resolution as without a knowledge of his wishes it was impossible for your Lordship to meet them. That at present the Maharajah seemed to have formed none and that in the meantime while matters remained in their present condition the Pindaries might repeat their inroads indefinitely. After a pause, Atma Ram said that one of Sindhia's plans was to resume the grants held by the Pindaries and to seize their leaders in which (contrary to the expectation of many) he had before completely succeeded and that the Pindaries would then be obliged to disperse and retire from the field; but I said that I looked for no such consequence as he seemed to expect from that measure, and that such a plan would I was persuaded be attended with just as little benefit as it was formerly; that the Pindaries would be left exactly where they were, that nothing was to hinder their appointing new leaders if their old ones were seized, and that their resentment would only be made the keener by such usage. That this would be of no consequence if His Highness were not prepared to follow up the blow, but that I greatly doubted his ability to do so. Atmaram said all this was very true, and on his remarking how much His Highness's territories suffered in common with others. I admitted the fact but said that it only afforded an additional argument why His Highness should not court the assistance of others to bring about a settlement of the country.

6. Atmaram said the matter should be taken into serious consideration, but I do not expect that the discourse I have related will produce any effect upon Sindhia's mind . . . far at least as to turn his attention seriously towards the Pindaries. The result of it may in other respects be good as pointing directly at the great object of your Lordship's present measures, with which Sindhia cannot fail presently of perceiving its connection and the tendency of it I should hope would then be rather to dissipate any apprehensions which the sudden and unexpected disclosure of your Lordship's plans might otherwise give rise to. I do not by this observation mean to refer to Jaipur where common report has prematurely excited Sindhia's fears. Atmaram by His Highness's directions opened that subject to me by observing that the Maharajah was become somewhat solicitous in consequence of

assemble a body of troops, but Baptiste has been written to in terms of encouragement, and is told not to be dismayed at the sudden calamity.

9. If the Rajah should pursue his success with the same prudence and courage that led to it, he may give a severe shock to this Government by raising an efficient body of troops and by stimulating all the discontented Zamindars of the country to join him and throw off all dependence on their oppressors, something of this kind seems to be apprehended but the independence of the principality of Ketcherwara ought to be the least reward of Rajah Jaisingh's perseverance and intrepidity.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

R. CLOSE,

Resident.

Letter No. 31.—The enclosure & copy of his letter to the Governor-General, throws light on the military dispositions of the Sindhia, the activities of Raja Jai Singh who had captured Shahpur, the siege of Raghogarh undertaken by Baptiste, the failure of Bapooji Sindhia in Rajputana and Meer Khan's operations in Jaipur.

FROM—R. CLOSE RESIDENT WITH DOULAT RAO
SINDHIA

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Gwalior, 21st June 1816.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of my dispatch of this date to the Governor-General.

Gwalior, June 21st, 1816.

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY THE EARL OF MOIRA, K.G.,
GOVERNOR GENERAL.

MY LORD,

The result of the sensation lately produced here by the capture of Soopoor has been a feeble effort to detach a body of troops from hence for the purpose of acting against Rajah Jai Singh whilst Baptiste conceiving his honour and character to be concerned in prosecuting the conquest of Raghogarh continues to press the siege of that place.

2. Sindhia after a deliberation of ten days has at length paid up some of his troops and prevailed upon them to march under Govind Rao Nana, brother of Malhar Bhow Bukshce. He is I believe a man of no character and he is to act only a subordinate

part under the Armenian Aratoon whom Baptiste has detached towards Soopoor with two Battalions, a few hundred Sillehdar horse and a body of 100 Pindaries. He is to be joined also by 2 corps of Infantry from Malwa. The force from hence when completed is not to exceed twelve hundred horse, about eight hundred Infantry and 8 or 10 Guns. The Corps of Infantry which left this (place) early last month to join the Corps of Sindhia also received orders to take the direction of Soopoor, but I am credibly informed that Bapoojee Sindhia's officers who were with..... exerted themselves so successfully in persuading the men to neglect those orders, that they have kept to their original purposes and have proceeded on to Ajmer. Under such a system of discordancy and insubordination where every chief pursues his own interests with impurity without regard to that of the State, little is to be expected from any exertions which Sindhia can make for the support of his government or the due..... of his authority.

3. Much of this is to be imputed to His Highness himself, who in a case at the present which is universally believed deeply to affect the reputation of his power would not furnish the supplies necessary to conduct this expedition. Whether he can do so or not is a question which might perhaps involve a long enquiry into the financial department of his Government, but from what I have observed, a sordid wish to make the best bargain with his troops and to engage them to serve him with the least possible expense to himself, has superseded every sentiment of indignation at the disgrace which he has just suffered. I believe His Highness to possess the means of acting a more decisive part, but that he has been influenced on this as on other occasions, by the reluctance so prevalent amongst the Native states, occasioned perhaps by a strong sense of the poverty or precariousness of their resources and of the facility with which revolutions have at all times been effected in most Asiatic Governments, to part with the treasures they are accustomed to hoard up as a precaution against the last extremity of emergency and distress.

4. Rajah Jai Singh has in the mean time been strengthening himself in Soopoor, and is employing the treasures which so providentially fell into his hands, in collecting a considerable body of men from all quarters; he has proposed to relinquish that place if Sindhia or rather Baptiste (to whom all the arrangements for the present service appear to be left as being the person most interested in their success and the most capable of directing them) will restore the fort which he took a few months ago by reducing Raghogarh or of ever molesting the Rajah hereafter. It is even said that Jai Singh has required that Sindhia should consent to the admission of the British Government as a guarantee to the engagements he may enter into but a deaf ear has hitherto been turned to all such proposals and it is resolved that Baptiste shall push his present operations with vigour, and after he shall have succeeded (of which he himself expresses his confidence) that he shall collect all his force

at Soopoor and if necessary lay siege to the fort. The season however for protracted operations, and if Jai Singh continues to act with the same spirit with which he has commenced, the rains would come much in aid of his mode of warfare.

5 The public opinion is indicated by a general appearance of satisfaction at the difficulties in which this Government has now become involved, and it is commonly thought that the late event could never have happened had not the Rajah of Raghogarh been instigated by others. not ventured to appear in the transactions suspicions fall upon Rana Zalim Singh whose Vakeels urge the zeal and fidelity with which he has on many occasions served Sindhia, to contradict the reflection now cast upon him. It presents a strong feature in the character of Sindhia's proceedings, that at a time when those suspicions were at their height (and they have not yet subsided) he wrote to Zalim Singh to desire he would reinforce the troops under Aratoon by two Battalions and horse from his own Army, the reply with every profession of good will and obedience was that as his attention was so much engrossed by the marriage of the Rajah of Oudypoor which is now solemnizing at Kota, he must be excused for the present as all his troops including those already with Baptiste and with Holkar were amply engaged, but that he would endeavour to send some assistance so that it should arrive at Soopoor as soon as the troops from hence. The Akhbars from Holkar's Camp announce that the Rajah of Raghogarh's Vakeel there was publicly complimented on the spirit and address lately displayed by his master.

6. The capture of Soopoor may not in itself appear to be an event of any great moment, but it derives importance from the influence it has produced on the minds of people in this part of the country where this sudden reverse of fortune after a long course of success, seems to be regarded as an Omen of some great and fortunate change affecting the interests of all the petty states in this neighbourhood. These expectations may vanish if Baptiste should succeed at Raghogarh and should then be able to bring the whole of his force and train to the siege of Soopoor, but Sindhia's Government will probably in the mean time be exposed to some difficulties, and at all events will not have leisure to turn its attention to other quarters.

7 Since my last address to your Excellency, Bapoojee Sindhia has returned towards Ajmer having almost entirely failed in the purpose for which he left it. Rajah Man Singh was so much dissatisfied at his proceedings, that his remaining in advance was no longer safe, what his next movements will be must be uncertain but they probably will not be attended with any more important consequences than the last. Meer Khan continues with his Army before Jaipore, frequent actions have taken place between the divisions of both armies separately to one another, with

various success. A heavy cannonade is repeated every day and some lives are lost on both sides but the accounts received here are not sufficiently minute to enable one to pronounce upon the probable issue of these events.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

R. CLOSE,
Resident.

Letter No. 32.—The enclosure to this letter throws light on the situation of affairs within Sindhia's dominions and the manner in which Sindhia is managing them.

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOULAT RAO
SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Gwalior, 8th September 1816.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of my dispatch of the 7th instant to the Governor-General.

Gwalior :

7th September 1816.

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY THE EARL OF MOIRA, K.G.,
GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

MY LORD,

Your Excellency has already been informed of the surrender of Raghogarh and of its occupation by Zalim Singh's troops. The Garrison appears to have been reduced to great want and to have been no longer capable of holding out, notwithstanding the hopes of relief that were given by Rajah Jai Singh and the efforts he made to alleviate their distress.

2. After leaving Soopoor as is mentioned in my last dispatch and pursuing for a little time what appeared to be some trivial and momentary objects, he suddenly made his appearance in the vicinity of Raghogarh and for some days it was expected that he would make an attack on Sindhia's troops, and under cover of it throw a convoy of supplies which he had taken with him, into the fort. He appears however to have been afraid to risk an assault on Baptiste's Camp, and to have again retired without accomplishing his purpose, still keeping sufficiently near however to threaten his enemies and to render their situation very uneasy. To add to

over the troops when Sindhia has had powerful interest to restrain them, but when there was no such predominant feeling, fire and devastation used often to be the lot of the villages and the cultivation. The diminution at least of these excesses has been one happy effect of the change that has taken place in the habits of this Government, for the last five years, and of the visible alteration which has followed in His Highness's personal character since he fixed his residence at Gwalior, whilst it continued to be His Highness's policy to move himself at the head of his army and to be always in the field. He gave a loose to those habits of dissipation which a long residence in a camp is often found to produce. He was excessively negligent of public affairs, so that his ministers could seldom prevail on him to give any attention to them, but on the other hand he was found of personal exertion which he showed by indulging in field sports to a degree of activity seldom found amongst the natives of India; on those occasions as well as in his more private hours he used to be attended by a set of abandoned favourites who employed every art of low and contemptible buffoonery for his amusement; and the scenes that were reported to be exhibited at such times are not fit to be described. I learn he has changed his mode of life, however, by remaining in a fixed station, and in consequence perhaps of sobriety and the change which is wrought by time (Sindhia being now near forty years of age) a great alteration has taken place in his manners and habits. He attends much more to public business than he used to do, and sometimes complains in his turn of the want of industry and application in his ministers. Many of his low companions have been obliged to leave him, and although from the turn of his mind he sometimes indulges in a levity that is unbecoming his station, he does not pass his hours in their society as formerly nor do those who remain presume as they used to do upon the familiarity to which he admitted them. As his character has thus acquired a greater degree of steadiness than before, his love of pleasure and of personal activity has diminished; and he is now much more fond of his ease than when I was formerly in his camp. If occasions were to arise that urgently required exertion his former activity might return, but I imagine he would not yield to them without reluctance. The cares of Government of course occasion him many disquietudes; still however he shows no inclination to throw the whole management of his affairs into the hands of any individual minister as formerly, although there often seems to be a struggle between his conviction of the necessity of attending to them himself and the natural indolence of his mind which frequently consigns them to neglect.

6. The decline of His Highness's power is not unfrequently the subject of conversation in the Durbar and numerous expedients are resorted to, to support its fallen reputation, a understanding with the Gurkha Vakeel, enquiries about the Napalese negotiations with the Chinese Government, and the holding out encouraging expectations from this quarter; besides a correspondence with Ranjit Singh and with the Rajah of Bharatpur, the reception of a Vakeel from

the latter as well as of another person who has styled himself an accredited agent from Lucknow, and the appointment of Hindoo Rao Ghatgay to... of a large force, are all amongst the devices made use of to keep alive a false impression of Sindhia's power and ascendancy, and some of these I have reason to believe are intended as a counterpoise to the present military appearances, on our Western frontier, and to meet the report which are circulated as well in Holkar's Camp as here of your Lordship's determination to undertake some decisive measures against the Pindaries and to call upon Sindhia and Holkar to co-operate in your designs.

7 It is proper I should acquaint your Lordship that on the 20th of last month I received from His Highness an invitation to be present at the celebration of the Janma Ashtami, that being a compliment usually paid to the Resident every year at the stated season. Before I went to the Durbar, however, Atmaram Pandit came to me and renewed the question which was formerly brought forward to Mr Strachey, concerning Hindu Rao Ghatgay's claims to the possession of Caugul which were conceived to have been unjustly set aside. I briefly stated the circumstances of that transaction as they came to my knowledge at Poona. I said the judgment passed upon it was not a hasty one, more than a year having elapsed before it was pronounced by Mr Elphinstone, that Hindu Rao Ghatgay must all along have been perfectly informed of what was passing, and that although he did not attend himself, I knew that his cause had been advocated with sufficient earnestness by others that all that could be urged for him was fairly heard, but that his claims were found to be groundless and that it was a mistake to imagine that a decision which had been so deliberately passed would now be reversed. I said that I imagined all this must already have been well known in the durbar, and that I could only impute the revival of the subject now, to the inveterate habit of the Marhattas never to relinquish claims which had once been advanced, but if permitted, to renew them continually and thus to gratify their desire of keeping disputes perpetually alive. I remarked that nothing was more calculated than such a course of proceeding to generate the most unfavourable suspicions, that I felt it my duty once for all to declare to him that the present demand would never be admitted, and that I therefore hoped it would not be repeated. This was urged on my part with temper and sometimes even with good humour.

8 When I proceeded to His Highness's dwelling in the evening I was no sooner seated than Atmaram Pandit came to me and said that on enquiry since he left me in the morning he found that he had been misinformed on the subject of our conversation, and that he now believed that what I had said upon it was perfectly correct. He concluded by requesting, I would not allow what had passed to leave any unfavourable expression on my mind, and said he would next day furnish me with a written statement, but without explaining what was to be the subject of it. I have since heard no more either of Hindu Rao's claims, or of the promised memorandum. As His Highness is accustomed to assume

a reserved department towards the Resident, little conversation passed during my visit. Bapoo Chintnavees however by His Highness's desire made many very particular enquires concerning your Lordship's movements, which I answered in the same manner as I formerly had the honour to report.

9. Bapoojee Sindhia though he continued to negotiate with the Jaipur minister, has lately marched towards Jodhpore to take advantage of some divisions which threatened to arise in that Government. Sindhia has been urged to recall his troops, but although they marched without his leave, His Highness shows no disposition towards them, satisfied probably with any scheme by which they may be supported without disturbing him with inconvenient demands which he could not satisfy. There have not as yet been any distinct reports regarding the future probable movements of the Pindaries, but intelligencers have lately returned to some of their camps who had been sent to explore the Guzerat frontier and the chiefs have renewed their demands upon Sindhia for an increase of territory, alledged that unless they are complied with they cannot restrain their followers.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

R. CLOSE,

Resident.

Letter No. 33.—The enclosure to this letter a copy of what the Resident wrote to Governor-General, reports that the Resident had been trying to impress on the Government of the Sindhia the evil consequences of allowing the Pindaries live in the Sindhia's dominions and of the reluctance of Sindhia to suppress them.

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOULAT RAO
SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Gwalior, 19th September 1816.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of my dispatch of this date to the Secretary to Government in the Political Department.

TO—JOHN ADAM, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

SIR,

Having heard from Mr. Jenkins that reports in circulation of the Pindaries being employed in preparation to cross the Nerbudda and renew their irruptions into the Southern countries, the occasion seemed favourable for repeating my representations to this Government and on the 17th instant I sent for Atmaram Pandit for that purpose.

2 I told him that I had heard of the intentions of the Pindaries to renew their incursions to the Southward for which they were now said to be preparing. That I begged he would inform His Highness of this circumstance who would no doubt see the necessity of preventing it. That if His Highness intended to avoid the reproaches of all his neighbours he certainly would do so, that this was expected of him as the Pindaries lived with their families in his dominion, and always found refuge in them after their plundering expeditions, that the whole world therefore looked upon them as dependents of His Highness's and that they themselves openly professed their obedience to Sindhia and asked for, and received his orders. That I mentioned this to give His Highness an opportunity if he pleased of averting from him the displeasure of all the neighbouring states by putting a stop to the designs of the Pindaries, and that it now remained with him to follow what course he thought best.

3. I remarked that I had twice spoken at some length upon this subject, and had suggested what appeared to me the only effectual mode for His Highness to adopt, but that it seemed to have made no impression on Sindhia's mind and that I was now quite at a loss to conjecture what steps His Highness meant to take in this important question.

4. Atmaram said he would state all I had said to him, he observed from himself that it was only on account of some pressing circumstances which prevented the Maharajah giving his undivided attention to the subject, that an answer had not been returned to my former communications, and the subjection of the Pindaries to Sindhia's authority, Atmaram said it was well known to what degree it intended and very little discrimination was shown by them in their plunder as they spared His Highness no more than others. I admitted that Sindhia suffered some partial mischief as must be expected from the residence of a large body of freebooters in his territories, but I denied that the plunder carried in his dominions bore any comparison to the ravages committed in other countries, I likewise assented in some degree to the insinuation of their independence and said that this was entirely owing to His Highness himself, who should never have suffered the Pindaries to become so formidable to him, and might long ago have prevented it. The task I added though now somewhat most difficult was still to be performed, but if neglected as hitherto I had little doubt that by and by Sindhia would loose all power of controlling them.

5 I trust that the language I employed on this occasion will be considered as strong as I was authorized to use. spirit of my instructions. I do not expect any favourable result from the efforts which have been made to persuade Sindhia to solicit our aid against the Pindaries but it may be proper that I should

seek an opportunity of bringing the subject forward in His Highness's presence, so as to let him perceive the importance that is attached to it and to show in a more conspicuous light the moderation of His Lordship's views, which can afterwards leave no excuse to this Government if it should fail to exert itself for the suppression of an evil, so generally and loudly complained of. In my letter to you of the 25th April I had the honour to state my opinion that in all probability no advances would be made by this Government unless the dangerous consequences of declining to employ its exertions were distinctly pointed out to it, and it now further appears to me from all the circumstances which have since forced themselves upon my attention, that although it may employ some partial expedients, nothing decisive or permanent can ever be expected from the reluctance and imbecility of its measures unless the British Government should assume the direction of any operations that may be undertaken against those freebooters. It should be slow to advance this opinion, did I not conceive that the whole tenor of the proceedings and conduct of this Government fully justified it, and that it was amply supported by the numerous details which for a series of years have been communicated to Government from this Residency.

6. From the 4th and 5th paragraphs of my dispatches to the Governor-General numbers 5 and 8, His Lordship will have perceived the desire that has been shown here to ascertain the precise intentions of the British Government. This has probably been with a view.....Sindhia to regulate his conduct, and.....proceedings to our views. If he saw that we would be satisfied with his co-operation without imposing any unpleasant, restraint upon him, in all likelihood he would readily co-operate with our proposals, trusting by that means to satisfy His Lordship of his disposition to meet his wishes and hence perhaps that some method might be devised of.....the complete accomplishment of our designs, which His Highness would no doubt view with inward dissatisfaction; but if he perceived that we were resolved to interfere to a greater degree than is here supposed in the concerns of his Government, it is equally probable that he would endeavour to protract the completion of our arrangements and that he would wait until he saw that the necessity of his affairs left him no room for hesitating to comply with them.

7. I shall consider it my duty to take every proper occasion to press the subject of the Pindaries upon Dowlat Rao Sindhia's attention in the style of remonstrances which I have hitherto used, until it shall appear to His Lordship that a further continuance of it is unnecessary.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Gwalior :

R. CLOSE,

The September 19th, 1816.

Resident.

Letter No 34.—The enclosure to the letter originally addressed to Mr Adam, Secretary to Government, reveals that the Resident had been desired by the Governor General not to make any further representations to the Sindhia regarding the Pindaries

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOULAT RAO
SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Gwalior, 1st October 1816.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copies of my dispatches of the 26th and 30th ultimo to Mr Adam.

TO—JOHN ADAM, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

Gwalior

September 26th, 1816

SIR,

On a further consideration of Governor-General's instructions communicated to me in your dispatch of the 11th of May last, it has appeared to me more suitable to His Lordship's views that I should abstain from addressing any further representations to this Government respecting the Pindaries instead of following the course which is pointed out in my letter to you of the 19th instant.

From the judgment which I have formed of His Lordship's intentions, I conceive that they will be fully answered without any further repetition of the language which I have hitherto held in my conversations with Atmaram Pandit, although to obviate any unfavourable inference such as is contemplated in the 3rd paragraph of your dispatch above adverted to, I shall at distant intervals throw out occasional expressions of the nature there prescribed to me.

In the conferences which I had with Atmaram Pandit a will have been observed to exonerate this Government from the responsibility attached to his urging the depredations which Sindhia's territories suffer from the Pindaries in common with other states, but it has appeared to me that assertion may with propriety be recalled (particularly as it is unfounded to the extent at least in which it has here been employed) lest advantage should hereafter be taken by too distinct an admission of such a plan at the present moment.

I am induced to notice the circumstance in this place because of the concluding sentence of your dispatch of the 11th May, which may perhaps have been suggested from different view of the subject from that.

Atmaram's conversations with me

seemed to have placed it. It is true that the lawless habits of the Pindaries expose Sindhia's territories in their vicinity to occasional.....but his more distant provinces are seldom or never injured by them, and it has been ascertained that his possessions in the Deccan are exempted from the cruel.....which during their invasions of those countries fall with unexampled severity on the inhabitants of the adjoining districts.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

R. CLOSE,

Resident.

Gwalior :

30th September 1816.

To—JOHN ADAM, ESQUIRE.

Sir,

Accounts from Kota announce the arrival there of four principal men from the Durrah of Pindaries formerly headed by Karim. but at present commanded by his nephew and adopted son Namdar Khan. Their journey has been for the purpose of conducting Karim's son Shahamut Khan to the Southward, to appear amongst his father's adherents, and as it is supposed to lead them on in their intended expedition to the Southern countries.

2. There has long been a good understanding between Karim Khan and Zalim Singh, and the Pindaree Chief's family has generally found an assylum in the Kota territory where it has remained ever since Karim's seizure. Shahamut Khan's journey is I am informed facilitated by Za'm Singh, inasmuch as he has directed him to be furnished with tents and all the required accommodation for the performance of.....not yet heard of Shahamut Khan's departure from Kota.

3. Zalim Singh's conduct in favour of the Pindaries arises from the timid.....purchasing the forbearance and..... those freebooters by acts of conciliation.....than use any decided exertion to.....encroachments; and I may add that.....system is observed by all the states in that part of the country, from the most.....down to each of the little.....and detached principalities (if I may..... them) which are dependent on the Court of Poona.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

R. CLOSE,

Resident.

defenceless state than ever to the..... of this Government. He wishes to have.....security against the faithless characters of the Marhattas and he has if I am correctly informed repeated his anxiety to obtain the aid of the British Government on which alone he can depend for his future safety. No.....for your Lordship's intercession have however been addressed to me, but should a Vakeel as seems to be expected arrive here from the Rajah the opportunity may perhaps then be taken to make some advances of that.....

4. The little State of Ketchwara of which Raghogarh is the capital has been for many years an object of conquest with this Government, and during Madhajee Sindhia's usurpations in this part of India, the.....family was twice dispossessed of all its territories; the Rajah and his relations however placed themselves at the head of their dependent and became so formidable by the outrages committed in all parts of Sindhia's territories north of the Nerbudda, that he found it necessary to reinstate the Rajah though on terms which are said to have rendered him in some degree dependent on this Government. What they were or whether they were ever fulfilled appears uncertain, but previously to Dowlat Rao Sindhia's accession. The Rajah was again attacked, Raghogarh was taken and some time afterwards it fell into the hands of Ambajee Ingolia with whom it remained until the rebellion of the Byes of Sindhia's family. The cause of those ladies was espoused by Lukwa Dada at that time one of Sindhia's most distinguished officers in Hindustan, and he to bring an accession of strength to his party gained over the Rajah of Raghogarh who with all his family was then driven from his dominions; the most conspicuous of his relations was Durjan Saul, uncle to the present Rajah; who in the disorders of those times established a principality of his own on the borders of Ketchywarra, but died a few years ago in exile, having been deprived of all his possessions by Baptiste who now holds them of this Government. After the Rajah of Raghogarh had joined Lukwa Dada and the Byes, the confederates proceeded to attack all Sindhia's adherents and Raghogarh was again taken possession of by the.....Rajah. This occurred either in the year 1798 or in 1799 and Jai Singh had ever since retained possession of the fort and its immediate dependencies.....the unexpected and treacherous attackwas lately made upon him.

5. The Rajah as I am informed has never paid any tribute to this Government and like all the other principalities in his vicinity has been exposed to frequent demands..... Those he has always resisted on the plea of his inability, and the loss of a part of his possession has been the consequence, but to prevent any further encroachments he has as I had reported in a former dispatch, made occasional.....of service which were never accepted. The late attack upon the Rajah was not.....by any demands which might show the precise nature of Sindhia's claims upon.....nor is it at all harsh to suppose that..... of them was little considered.

6. Rajah Jai Singh is a man of violent and cruel disposition, but possessed courage and intrepidity. It is difficult to say whether he is popular with his subjects or not, as there are few occasions on which the opinion of the people can be expressed or at least ascertained, but they have an attachment to the family as being of a Rajpoot tribe and as having long ruled over there certainly is a strong aversion to the Mahrattas, the extension of whose influence everywhere is viewed with alarm. A family alliance subsists between the Rajah and Zalim Singh of Kota, as well as between him and the Rajah of Jaipore, the revenue of his possessions before the usurpation of Doorjan Saul and the Mahrattas, was not inconsiderable compared with the other principalities adjoining but immediately before the present contest, it did not exceed, four lakhs of rupees, if indeed it amounted to that sum.

7. Dowlat Rao Sindhia's attention has been much occupied of late by the intrigues for power in the durbar which were formerly brought to your Lordship's notice by Mr Wellesley. They have since been going on with various success but they have always appeared to be of doubtful issue, nor is it apparent in what manner they will now terminate. Your Lordship may not perhaps attach much importance to changes of this kind at present as the persons engaged in them are not possessed of the talents or weight of character necessary to produce effects of any great consequence to us or to alter in any material degree the disposition of the Government. It is not unlikely however that if Hindoo Rao Ghatke and his friends succeed they may press Sindhia to a more decided course of policy than he has followed although it is by no means certain that His Highness will suffer himself to be influenced by them to the extent they may desire. The present financial minister on whom every internal arrangement or military movement depends by some or endeavouring to increase and influence in the Government by the cash payments necessary to conduct the affairs so as to render Sindhia more submissive to his views, whilst by others it is said that more apparent probability, that His Highness to the clamours of Parikjee's enemies in force him to make large disbursement made heavier demands upon him than what was prepared to comply with, which these have been the real motive the minister has certainly shown great reluctance to meet His Highness's wishes in many and advantage has been taken of the circumstance by Baeza Bai assisted by her brother Hindoo Rao and some others of the adherents to try to estrange His Highness the minister and to obtain his consent for taking the lead in the administration and providing funds for the expenses of the Government. For this purpose they have been negotiating with a rich Banker in the British Provinces who has I understand some inclination to undertake this task. It is not unlikely that fair may be used to entice him hither, but does not as yet appear that Sindhia, has any serious intention of abandoning the present minister. In the mean time there is a good deal of uncertainty in the public mind as to the issue of these transactions.

8. The late birth of the Peshwa's son afforded to Sindhia an opportunity of testifying the interest and concern which he always professed to take in His Highness's welfare; the accounts of that event were received here with every demonstration of joy; Sindhia, the moment he heard of it, sent a special messenger to announce it to me, and a day or two afterwards a deputation was sent to me with the compliments which are usual on similar occasions of rejoicing. I received all these expressions of His Highness's satisfaction with common civility only, not considering the occasion to be such as to require that I should join in the festivities of this Court. The Peshwa's Vakeel likewise paid the usual compliments but it is worthy of remark that it is the only communication I have ever received from him. On the 16th instant His Highness did me the honour to visit the Residency, he came, attended by all his principal officers, civil and military, and was received with every proper attention.

9. Bapoojee Sindhia is employed in plundering the Jodhpore country, his exactions have been severe and he lately fell upon a Battalion of Rajah Man Singh's which he plundered and dispersed, taking three guns which were attached to it. In the meantime some of Holkar's troops have been committing great devastations in Sindhia's possessions, Malwa and the force in that province has been ordered to oppose them; but it is not probable that any hostilities of a serious complexion would ensue.

10. Shahmat Khan son of.....who left Kota some time ago has by this time probably joined his father's Derra of Pindaries and a considerable degree of alarm is reported to be felt in consequence of the expected approach of the British Troops south of the Nerbudda.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

R. CLOSE,

Resident.

PINDARIES

Letter No. 1.—Conran intimates that Karim Khan was not likely to cross the Nerbudda because of the mutual quarrels among the Pindari leader, about which the enclosure No. 1 gives detailed information.

FROM—COL. H. CONRAN.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Camp near Toogaum, the 5th January 1812.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant with translations of Akhbars, from the 7th to the 16th of last month, from the tenor of which I conclude that Karim Khan will not attempt to cross the Nerbudda this season.

I shall move tomorrow to Bulgaum three coss north-west from Amraoti to meet the Detachment under Major Custance.

*Intelligence, dated 18th Zeehege corresponding with
4th January 1812.*

Karim with his troops was proceeding by continued marches on the troops of Jaggoo Bapoo; Bapoo Sindhia, Mr. Baptiste and Yeswant Rao and the party of Chitto Pindarrahs having joined, together charged him at the distance of about 16 coss from Sujawalpur and killed about 400 of his Pindarrahs, Karim having gone into Nasirgarh about 17 coss from the place he was charged. The combined troops, 50,000 in number, followed him and surrounded the place in all directions.

Kodajee Naik having been found by Bapoo Sindhia is kept near his person,

Letter No 2.—The letter suggests the probability of the Pindari incursions into British territories and specially into the Cuttack province, and what precautions are to be taken in this regard.

FROM—N B EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Calcutta, the 21st September 1812.

I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a private letter from Mr Strachey containing intelligence regarding the designs of the Pindaries to renew their incursion into our provinces.

This only tends to corroborate what their successful incursion in the month of March led us to anticipate, and every practicable preparation of precautionary defence is of course in progress.

It is superfluous to add to this communication the desire of Government that you should adopt every means in your power to obtain and transmit the earliest and most accurate information regarding the designs and movements of the Pindaries north of the Nerbudda.

If you should receive any intelligence of the intentions of the Pindaries to attempt an incursion into Cuttack, and of their movements in that direction, you will judge of the practicability of conveying information to the Commanding Officer in that Province more speedily than by the Dawk to this Presidency.

The Agent in Bundelkhand should also be apprized of any information you may obtain regarding the designs of the Pindaries which may not improbably be directed to Bundelkhand or to the renewal of their attempt to penetrate into Mirzapore through the Rajah of Rewa's country.

We have been negotiating a treaty with that chief, the object of which is to engage him in the defence of the passes of his territory against the advance of predatory bodies and to obtain the liberty of stationing our own troops within his country on any occasion of menaced invasion, and I have understood from private information that Mr Richardson has succeeded in effecting the conclusion of that Treaty but this wants confirmation.

Letter No 3.—The letter intimates that 4,000 Pindaries had crossed the Nerbudda at Hindia and are supposed to have proceeded towards Burhanpur.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

Nagpur, the 26th October 1812

I have just received a report from my news-writer at Betul that on Sunday, the 18th instant, 4,000 Pindaries of the Holkar Shahjee party crossed the Nerbudda near Hindia, and are supposed to have proceeded towards Burhanpore.

On Tuesday the 20th, the same news-writer mentions, a considerable body of Dost Mohammed's Pindaries, also crossed the Nerbudda more to the Eastward, in the neighbourhood of Chainpore Barree, and took the direction of Sireenagar. The destination of this body is not known, and they may either come down in this direction, or proceed on a more distant expedition to the eastward.

The same as above to—

The Resident at Hyderabad, dated 26th October 1812.

Colonel Rumley at Jalna, dated 26th October 1812.

J. Richardson at Bundelkhand, dated 26th October 1812.

Captain Roughsedge at Hazaribagh, dated 26th October 1812.

Letter No. 4.—The letter conveys further information about the movement of Pindaries.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—M. ELPHINSTONE, RESIDENT AT POONA.

Nagpur, the 31st October 1812.

The party of Pindaries mentioned in my letter of the 26th instant to have crossed the Nerbudda on Sunday the 18th seem afterwards to have been heard of about Burhanpore, and since at Nachangaon on the Wardha and at Hinganghat about 50 miles to the Southward of Nagpur. There are however other banditti who occasionally plunder in Berar, and in Southern parts of the Rajah's territories, and indeed who are now reported to be in motion, so that it is difficult to say whether the plunderers now on the Wardha and about Hinganghat are the Pindaries who are represented to have come down from the Nerbudda.

I had a pair of Hircarrahs in, yesterday from Seetoo's Camp, which they left on the 18th on its march with part of the Holkar Shahee Pindaries, to join Juggoo Bappoo near Bhopal, and it was reported that all the Pindaries of the latter description would unite with Seetoo for the present and act with Sindhia's and the Bhonsla's troops.

Today I have Hircarrahs from Dost Mohammed's Camp which they left on Monday the 19th. He had moved to Dhamangaon a few coss from his cantonment of Bagrode, and was in readiness to undertake an expedition. But in what direction was not known, excepting from the reports in the Camp which pointed at a renewal of his attempts in the direction of Mirzapore. The Hircarrahs had not heard of any of Dost Mohammed's Pindaries having crossed the Nerbudda as was reported to me from Betul.

The same as the above to—

The Resident at Hyderabad.

Captain Roughsedge.

Colonel Rumley.

J. Wauchope, Esquire.

Letter No. 5.—The letter speaks about the negotiations between the main body of Pindaries and the agents of Sindhia and the Nawab of Bhopal. A roaming band of Pindaris—1,000 strong had looted the rich village of Khapa, 20 miles north of Nagpur.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—J. WAUCHOPE, AGENT TO THE G. G., BUNDELKHAND.

Nagpur, the 6th November 1812.

My news-writer at Saugor in a letter dated the 31st ultimo, mentions that at that time Dost Mohammed was still encamped near Bagrode, but that a body of 6,000 Pindaries of his party had moved towards the Nerbudda with a reported intention of proceeding either to this quarter or into Berar. An incursion into Garrah Mandla was also talked of.

A Hoojra on the part of Sindhia was in his Camp endeavouring to persuade him to follow Seetoo's example, and join Sindhia's troops under Juggoo Bappoo; who is operating against the Nabob of Bhopal in conjunction with the Rajah of Berar's troops. On the other hand the Nabob of Bhopal was offering Dost Mohammed a small advance of cash to persuade him to come to his assistance.

Reports have reached Nagpur of a body of Dost Mohammed's Pindaries having crossed the Nerbudda to the eastward of Hoshangabad, but no certain intelligence has been received.

The freebooters mentioned in my last letter seem to have been regular Pindaries. A few days ago however a rich place called Khapa and many villages in the neighbourhood, about 20 miles to the northward of Nagpur, were plundered by a body of Pindaries said to be about 1,000 strong, who immediately returned to the northward.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st October.

The same as the above to—

The Resident at Poona and Hyderabad,

Colonel Rumley and Captain Roughsedge, dated the 6th.

Letter No. 6.—The letter conveys further information about the Pindaries, and their plans to plunder.

FROM—J. WAUCHOPE, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Banda, the 29th November 1812.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant respecting the entrance of a body of Pindaries into the Berar territory.

2. Every account I have since received corroborates the fact of a large body of Pindaries from the Dhurra of both Dost Mohammed and Kadar Bux having pursued the direction of the Nerbudda with the reported intention of ravaging the Berar country but it would appear that those two leaders themselves still continue at their original headquarters of Bagrode and Gerasspore, although it was at first strongly reported that Dost Mohammed had himself accompanied the body.

P. S.

Since writing the above I have received a paper of intelligence respecting the plunder from the Officer Commanding at Lohargaon which I have the honour to enclose.

Translation of a paper of intelligence received from Lohargaon on the 29th November 1812.

Dost Mohammed marched from Gorakhpore Pahur Kote on Sunday, the 4th of Aughan and after plundering everything there returned to Bagrode. He has sent a reinforcement of 2,000 Sowars of Karim Khan's party to Ramzan Khan who is at Heerapore with 6,000 Horse and 2,000 foot, and it is reported that he intends to make an incursion on Hutta.

Monday, 5th of Aughan 1869, Sambat.

(A true translation)

J. WAUCHOPE,
A. G. G.

Letter No. 7.—The letter conveys information about the Pindaries appearing on the borders of Gujrat. The strength of the Pindaries as well as of the army of the Nawab of Bhopal is mentioned. The prices of foodgrains in Ujjain and Ratlam are also mentioned.

FROM—F. WARDEN, CHIEF SECRETARY TO BOMBAY GOVERNMENT.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Bombay Castle, the 3rd February 1813.

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council to communicate to you, the accompanying copy of a dispatch from the Resident at Baroda of this date, conveying intelligence of the appearance of the Pindaries, in the Surat Attaveesey.

To

FRANCIS WARDEN, ESQUIRE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO
GOVERNMENT, BOMBAY

SIR,

I have the honour to enclose deposition of a pair of Cossids from Shahjahanpur Sarungpore, who arrived at the Residency yesterday

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Baroda

J WILLIAMS,

The 3rd January 1813.

Assistant in Charge.

*Deposition of a pair of Cossids from Shahjahanpur Sarungpore
arrived on the 2nd January 1813.*

About 18 days since we left Rutlam and arrived at Shahjahanpur Sarungpore where we heard that a coss distant on the south side of the fort of Talboopaul 50,000 troops were encamped, the Sardars belonging to Sindhia are Juggoba Bapu, Dhansingh, Kadirbuksh, and Chetty Khan and Dost Mohammed with Pindaries is along with them, and we heard that there are Guns in their Camp

A report prevails that the Nabob of Bhopal named Vazir Mohammed has in the fort 6 or 7 000 men in hopes of an accommodation hostilities were suspended some time ago, but have again recommenced.

The Pindaries are plundering on the neighbourhood 20 or 25 coss round, the road is entirely stopped

We further heard that Dost Mohammed with the Pindaries, after the settlement at Bhopal, will proceed on the borders of Gujrat near Ratlam but some people say they will proceed to Sindhia's Camp

We further heard that 40 coss distant from Ujjain on the banks of the Nerbudda Ratham Khaun and Ramdhan are halted with 7 or 8,000 Pindaries but they are plundering the Pergunnah of Berar and they intend to proceed to Malwa.

Twenty five coss distant from Rutlam at a place called Pratapgarh a Sardar belonging to Sindhia named Yeshwant Rao Bhow has halted with 7 or 8,000 men and their intention is to join the Army at Talboopaul.

Four or five thousand men of Dhar are encamped at 12 coss distant from Banswara, and they are plundering the villages of the said Pergunnah.

Ramlal Bapoo, Sindhia's Sardar, has encamped with about 7,000 men at Nowloye.

The price current at Shahjahanpur and Ujjain—

Wheat—28 seers per rupee.

Jowary—40 seers per rupee.

Muckaye—40 seers per rupee.

Ghee—3 seers per rupee.

The price current at Rutlam—

Wheat—18 seers per rupee.

Jowary—30 seers per rupee.

Muckaye—30 seers per rupee.

Rice—12 seers per rupee.

Ghee—3 seers per rupee.

The merchants of.....are came to purchase the grains which enhances the price.

(True Copy)

J. WILLIAMS,
Assistant in charge.

Letter No. 8.—The letter gives information about the intention of the Pindaries to plunder Saugor, Jubbulpore, Mhow, Rampur and Jhansi.

FROM—J. WAUCHOPE, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN BUNDELKHAND.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Banda, the 6th March 1812.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo with its enclosure.

2. I suspect the body of Pindaries you allude to in your letter to Colonel Gregory, are a Detachment from a body of Dost Mohammed's Pindaries which lately made an excursion in the direction of Jubbulpore under Ramzan Khan. This leader however with the whole of the body detached on that excursion have now returned to the vicinity of Bagrode, from whence a second excursion is meditated. Saugor, Jubbulpore, Mhow, Rampore, and Jhansi are variously reported as the objects of the projected excursion.

Letter No. 9.—The enclosures to this letter convey information about the incursions of the Pindaries in various parts of Malwa and their intention to enter Malwa.

FROM—J. WARDEN, CHIEF SECRETARY TO BOMBAY GOVERNMENT,

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Bombay Castle, the 25th March 1813.

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council to transmit for your information the accompanying copy of a dispatch from the Resident at Baroda under date the 13th of this month conveying intelligence regarding the Pindaries.

To

FRANCIS WARDEN, ESQUIRE,
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, BOMBAY

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the accompanying intelligence from Dhar and Indore, and to state that as some part of this information gives reason to believe that another attempt may be made to invade the Attaycey, a copy of the enclosure has been transmitted to the Chief of Surat. In pursuance of the orders conveyed in the dispatch from Mr Secretary Balington, dated the 28th ultimo I shall not fail to maintain a communication with the judge and magistrate at Kaira and the Chief of Surat, whenever intelligence that reaches me is of a nature to affect the interest committed to their charge.

2 The information on of the Pindaries at having an intention to move upon Ratlam, appears uncertain, but should subsequent accounts prove them to be actually on the move in that direction it would be desirable that my proposal in the 7th paragraph of my letter of this date for a body of troops joining the Myhee Kanta troops from Kaira should be carried into execution.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Baroda

J R. CARNAC,

The 13th March 1813.

Resident.

*Translation of intelligence by Cossids from Dhar arrived 13th
March 1813*

The Cossids left Dhar 7 days ago. They state that they went for intelligence to Indore and found Ramdin Poorbia encamped there with 7,000 of Holkar's troops. A Patan, named Roshan was at Dharamporee 13 Coss east of Kookshey with 4,000 men and it was reported he would soon return. junction be formed, their intention was said to be movement to Khandesh. As Indore belonged to Holkar it was not plundered by any party of the abovementioned troops.

The Cossids further state that while at Indore they met a Cossid from Choley Meyhayswer going to Holkar's Camp. He stated that at the Ghats of Sutwass Hullud Handia, 40 Coss from Indore the Pindari Chiefs, Heroo, Peroo and Sheetoo were separately encamped 7 Coss of each other. Of these Peroo with 7 or 8,000 horse lightly equipped had, 15 days from the present date, crossed the Nerbudda and gone towards Khandesh. The other two Chiefs are still in the vicinity of the Sutwass Ghat and it is rumoured that altogether they have 15 or 20 thousand men. It was said that after Peroo had acquired plunder from Khandesh he would return to . have

long had it in contemplation.....an irruption into Berar, but the Bhonsla's troops about 10,000 have prevented the execution of the enterprise by being encamped at Colla Chabootra 30 Coss east of Sutwass.

The success that attended the irruption into Guzerat has given confidence to the Pindaries and it was supposed that they would soon attempt it again; as also that they would come into Malwa.

Holkar's Pindaries, under the denomination of Mundgul Barra Bhoy are encamped within 4 Coss of Shahjahanpore, 25 Coss beyond Ujjain. The depredations of these Pindaries are very serious in the neighbourhood of their Camp. It is said, but with no certainty, that these Pindaries will direct their way to Ratlam in Malwa.

A party of armed men, belonging to Dhar are in its vicinity and some disturbances have lately occurred with the rebel Murar Rao Powar.

Jean Bapteste's Battalions about 5,000 under Ragunath Bapoo are in the Depalpore Pergunnah belonging to Holkar 15 Coss beyond Ratlam. This force has plundered the village of..... They are going to Depalpore.

Price of grain at Indore per rupee—

32 seers of wheat.
45 seers of jawari.
40 seers of gram.
4½ seers of ghee.

Price of grain at Dhar per rupee—

Wheat 28 seers.
Jowari 32 seers.
Gram 30 seers.
Ghee 4 seers.

(A true copy of the translation)

J. R. CARNAC,
Resident.

Letter No. 10.—The short despatch intimates the whereabouts of the Pindaries as derived from messages received from Jhabna and Naundedwar.

FROM—J. R. CARNAC, RESIDENT AT BARODA.

TO—F. WARDEN, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

Baroda, the 29th July 1813.

I have the honour to forward for the information of the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council, two transcripts of intelligence received from Nader-Bhar and Jabwa.

Heads of intelligence from Nader-Bhar, dated 5th Rajab/5th July 1813.

The Pindaries still remain encamped at Tal-Bhopal and Karimgarh in consequence of the rivers Nerbudda and Taptee having been swelled by the rains, they are not able to cross over; near to Daoleh Metah Gaum in Khandesh, are encamped 5,000 of the Peshwa's troops. Degla Sirdar according to the Peshwa's order has left the Army and gone to Shri-Nagar and it is the Peshwa's orders to punish the Arabs and Bheels, who have been existing disturbances in Khandesh but from the severe fall of rain for the last two months, they still remain unexecuted. Tezh Khan Sarayewala and Jewa Warara Bheel have plundered the dwelling place of the Thannadar of Chitarna Village, belonging to the Peshwa and have carried away some men and cattle; on this becoming known the Commander of this district directed a detachment of 1,000 men to march upon them; this took place 20 days back, and the Bheels getting notice of the march of the man, prepared accordingly, and are assembling from all quarters.

Head of Intelligence from Jabwa, dated Ashar Sood 13 (11th July 1813.

Sindhia occupies his old position, Ramdhin Poorbia is cantoned midway between Indore and Depalpoore. Roshan Bagin the Talook Purace near to Myhesir, has encamped his troops, he has plundered and burnt some villages. Dam Singh belonging to Sindhia has encamped 4 Coss from Ujjain with 2 Battalions and 1,000 Cavalry. The Pindaries are encamped at Sutwass Ghaut Buree Bybe and plunder round for 30 Coss. Bapooji Sindhia and other Sirdars have encamped near to Merurbahera. Meer Khan is in the Zillah of Jaypore.

Dowlat Rao Sindhia's Battalions are engaged in hostilities with the Pertabghur man, on which account, Sindhia wrote to his Mother saying that the Talook of Partabgarh was under her management, therefore whatever loss, has been sustained by Mansoor Catcherode, and Nowlaee from the Pertabgarh man, do you make good for me. The Pertabgarh man has I have since heard, commenced negotiation with Dowlat Rao Sindhia's officers.

The cause of Holkar's moving from Bampoor was this that an Astrologer from Benares said that in this station a fire took place, therefore it is requisite to move from it, but if you should not find a better place you are then to return here, they were to make five marches.

(True copies)

J. WILLIAMS,

First Assistant to the Resident.

Letter No. 11.—The letter contains an enclosure which conveys intelligence regarding the disturbed situation in Ujjain, and other places in Malwa, and also regarding the Pindaries.

FROM—J. R. CARNAC, RESIDENT AT BARODA,

TO—F. WARDEN, CHIEF SECRETARY TO BOMBAY GOVERNMENT.

Banda, 2nd September 1813.

I have the honour to forward for the information of the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council a transcript of intelligence received from Mohammed Atta Munshi.

Translation of a paper of intelligence from Munshi Mohammed Atta dated the 22nd Shawban/20th August 1813.

It is reported that the Pindaries are encamped forty Coss from Ujjain. Their horsemen plunder day and night in the adjacent countries. On account of the incessant fall of rains they are unable to make extensive predatory excursions, but they will undoubtedly, after the rainy season commence their accustomed depredation. I myself saw from a village I was at, a body of a thousand Pindaries horse proceeding at the distance of two Coss from me on the road to Indore, belonging to Holkar, which place they plundered, carrying off two thousand head of cattle; four hundred of Holkar's Cavalry came that same day into Indore, but made no attempt to pursue the plunderers. It was formerly rumoured in Hindustan that Sindhia and Holkar are excellent Soldiers, and had had good troops but their state is greatly altered. Sindhia has no money to pay his troops and Holkar is likewise reduced to the same straits.

For these last two years the troops of Maharaj Dowlat Rao Sindhia Bahadur have been engaged in prosecuting hostilities against Tal Bhopal and have plundered the vicinal country, but they had no regular engagement; they have by the latest accounts retreated from thence.

Maharaja Dowlat Rao Sindhia's orders have arrived in this country for the troops under the command of Jean Baptiste to advance against Bhopal. 10,000 of Barabhoy Holkar's troops having united with Khan Sindhia's Sirdar, were going towards Bhopal and according to Sindhia's orders 5,000 Pindaries were likewise proceeding against Bhopal. These troops had arrived at Sumboor and returned to their original position on which account I did not conceive it conformable to the Rules of propriety to remain any longer in villages and again returned to Ujjain.

Anand Rao Powar's wife is in Dhar, and Moorar Rao is engaged in plundering in the pergunnahs; and Moorar Rao has engaged Raja Behauder with two Battalions and some horsemen; Rajah Bahadur is a Sirdar of Sindhia's. Moorar Rao has returned to Dhar with Murd Ali and has erected Batteries against the Citadel

it. The Raja claims the district of Sohagpur from the Rajah of Berar, and it is therefore probable that the correspondence related solely to that claim.

3. The detachment will march for the purposes detailed in the proclamation of which I had the honour to furnish you with a copy, on or about the 27th instant.

Letter No. 15.—*The letter refers to the directions of the Governor General to prevent the settlement of the families of the Pindaries between the Nerbudda and Asirgarh in co-operation with the Sindhia. The enclosure is a letter addressed to the Sindhia for that purpose.*

FROM—J. ADAMS, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.
TO—H. RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

Fort William, the 26th November 1813.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant enclosing the copy of a letter from Capt. Sydenham relative to the removal of the families of the Pindaries to the vicinity of Asseergarh and Burhanpur and the probability of their establishing themselves in that quarter.

2. The Governor-General in Council is fully impressed with a sense of the dangerous consequences which the successful execution of this plan would produce with reference to the security and tranquillity of our own provinces and those of our ally in Gujrat as well those of the Nizam and the Peshwa.

3. His Excellency in Council has accordingly issued instructions to the Resident with Sindhia, of which I have the honour to enclose a copy, directing him to address Sindhia without delay, and urge him to exert himself to drive the Pindaries back to their former haunts if it shall not be practicable to make a more effectual impression on them. His Excellency in Council contemplates, as you will observe, the probability of an occasion arising for the employment of the Subsidiary force at Jalna, and a proportion of His Highness the Nizam's troops to co-operate in this service, and you will be pleased to advert to the possibility of such an arrangement and take into your consideration the most expedient mode of carrying it into effect, and that you will be prepared to carry into execution any instructions on the subject which you may receive.

TO—R. STRACHEY, ESQUIRE, RESIDENT WITH
DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

SIR,

I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a letter from the Resident at Hyderabad under date the 9th November enclosing a report of the proceedings of the Pindaries, which indicate a design to establish themselves permanently in a position in Sindhia's territories south of the Nerbudda near Asseergarh and Burhanpur.

2. It is impossible for the Governor General in Council to view with indifference a circumstance which will so materially affect the security of tranquillity both of the 'Hon'ble Company's territories in Gujrat and the provinces of their Highnesses the Nizam and the Peshwa, which will thus become more than ever exposed to the invades of the Pindaries. His Excellency in Council considers it to be a duty which Dowlat Rao Sindhia owes, no less to himself than to other states, to use every effort to restrain the Pindaries from establishing themselves permanently in a new position and since it is impracticable, in the present situation of affairs, to adopt a general and combined system of measures for suppressing that growing evil, it is more peculiarly incumbent on every one of the established power of India to prevent by the instant application of its means to the occasions that arise, the adoption of any measure on the part of the Pindaries which has such ambitious tendency as that now under consideration, to augment their power, enlarge the sphere of their operations, and facilitate their means of doing mischief.

3. You will therefore be pleased to take the earliest opportunity of representing to Dowlat Rao Sindhia the urgent importance of preventing the Pindaries from establishing themselves to the south of the Nerbudda, or indeed in any new position and urge him to direct his local officers to adopt the most decisive measure for compelling them to return across that river to their original stations, if they cannot be more effectually attached. It is superfluous to add that it must be an essential part of these measures to prevent the families of the Pindaries from settling in the country. Their removal will at all events be practicable in the absence of the Pindaries.

4. The arguments to be employed to convince Sindhia of the degree in which his own interests are concerned in the successful execution of this measure, will readily occur to you and I am therefore only directed to desire that you will press them on Sindhia in every possible form in which you deem them calculated to make an impression on his mind.

5. It may be expected that the event of Sindhia and his officers entering cordially into the views which you will lay before His Highness, to assist their efforts by the co-operation of the Subsidiary force at Jalna, and a portion of the troops of His Highness the Nizam. This question will be for future consideration after the receipt of your report in reply to these instructions. The subject will in the meanwhile be mentioned to the Resident at Hyderabad, who will be desired to take it into his consideration, and be prepared to carry into effect any instructions which he may receive to that effect will not however suggest such a co-operation to Dowlat Rao Sindhia without special instructions.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Fort William : Your most obedient humble servant,
The 26th November 1813.

J. ADAM,
Secretary to Government.

Letter No. 16.—The letter reports the whereabouts of Pindaries, and conveys the information that they intend to raid Nizam's territories south of the Godavari.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—H. RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

Nagpur, the 31st December 1813.

With reference to the instructions of Government to you and the Resident with Sindhia under date the 26th of November of which I have this day received copies, I deem it proper to state for your information the substance of my last intelligence from Seetoo's Camp.

That Chief with his horde continued on the 11th instant in a position south of the Nerbudda, at Malthawun, near Hindia, in the fort of which name also on this bank of the river, he and his adherents the Ranjuns have lodged their families and valuable effects by the permission of Sindhia's killadar, since the beginning of October. Whether or not the families of the whole or principal part of their followers are in the same place is not mentioned, but it is likely that they are with the Camp.

Seetoo, and the Holkar Shahee Pindaries who have not quitted their seats on the other side of the river, seem to act generally in concert and a reconciliation appeared likely to take place between him and the Chiefs of Karim's party, who are encamped at Rayseen. A meeting between the principal men of each party was to have taken place on the 14th instant for the purpose of adjusting differences, and forming plans for united operations.

Seetoo was employed in raising Infantry, and equipping his Artillery. The elder of the Ranjhuns had just returned from an expedition against some places of Holkar's, south of the Nerbudda in the district of Muheshwar, from which with the assistance of Infantry and Guns he had levied regular contributions.

I must not omit to mention a report that Seetoo in conjunction with the Holkar Shahee and Karim Shahee Pindaries meditate a combined irruption into the Nizam's territories south of the Godavery, as far as the vicinity of Hyderabad.

I shall forward copies of this letter to the Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindhia and to Mr. Secretary Adam.

Letter No. 17.—The letter and its enclosure refer to the establishment of the families of the Pindaries in the neighbourhood of Burhanpur and to what action can be taken against them.

FROM—H. RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

TO—RICHARD JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Dated Hyderabad, the 5th January 1814.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th and to send you a copy of my letter of the 25th ultimo to Mr. Adam, Secretary, on the subject of the removal of the families of the Pindaries to the south of the Nerbudda.

To—JOHN ADAM, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 26th ultimo on the subject of the apparent intention of the Pindaries to establish themselves in the neighbourhood of Boorhanpur.

The Right Honorable the Governor-General will have seen by my dispatch of the 6th instant that the intelligence of the Pindaries being accompanied by their families had been confirmed but that they were likely to be opposed by the Killedar of Aseer from which it may be concluded that Sindeah's officers will execute any orders which he may issue for their being expelled from his districts to the south of the Nerbudda as far as they have the means of doing so. But the troops which they now have must be very unequal to cope with the Pindaries.

I have communicated a copy of your dispatch to Captain G. Sydenham and have desired him to send Hircarrahs on whom he can depend, in the direction of Boorhanpur to ascertain the situation and force of the Pindaries and to discover as far as possible what was their real view in bringing their families across the river with them. The force at Jalnah is already prepared for active movement and if its services should be required in the execution of His Lordship's determination, it will probably be advisable to station the principal part of the Nizam's own troops at convenient points along the frontier, and to send the troops at Jalna joined by a party of His Highness's best cavalry, in one or two bodies, according to the intelligence which may be received at the time of the distribution and movements of the Pindaries. There would not be much hope I fear of Colonel Rumley's coming up with them to the southward of the Nurbudda, though there could be no doubt of his forcing them to withdraw their families across the river.

Several small parties of Pindaries have penetrated into the Nizam's country in the direction of Omrawetty, but I have not heard of the movement of any large body.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

H. RUSSELL,
Resident.

Hyderabad :

5th December 1814.

Letter No. 18.—The enclosure is a paper of intelligence about the intentions of Chitoo to raid the territories of the Peshwa, Bhonsla and the Nizam.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—H. RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

Nagpur, 9th January 1814.

I have the honour to forward a translation of a paper of intelligence which I have this day received from the Pindary camp.

The same as above to the Resident at Poona and with Sindhia and Colonel Rumley dated the 9th January 1814.

Translation of a paper of intelligence from Seetoo's camp at Malthawun dated the 31st December 1813.

Cheetoo returned to camp on Monday the 26th in the morning. The next day he held a Durbar, and partitioned out the Perganas of Sutwas, Gopalpur, Seepaner and Nemawar to his matchlock men, telling them that they were to stand by him to the last, and that as long as they were protected by God they would subsist by plundering the countries of the Peshwa, the Nizam, the Bhonsla, the English, Sindia and Holkar. He also told them to be ready and have their horses shod for an incursion towards Nagpur after the Teej, the third day after the tenth of the Mohuram. Namdar Khan and Khooshal Kooer, of Kareem's party he said were also going in the same direction, but it did not matter; they were to be ready, and let matters take their course. Accordingly they are all getting ready. Cheetoo accuses Kishnajee Naack of spoiling his schemes, and says he has now nothing left but to get his views accomplished by plundering some country. Namdar Khan and Khooshal Kooer wish to get Karim released, and then to endeavour by a general combination to obtain Jaghirs from the Peshwa where they may deposit their families, and serve the state. Until then they will plunder the country, but all of them at present intend to go on an expedition either against the Nagpur territory or Berar after the Mohurram. There is no dependence however to be placed upon their movements. Cheetoo is filling up his battalions. Sew Singh commandant has come from Ujjain.

A letter has arrived from Sadik Ali Khan to Cheetoo brought by a Barreedar. The contents of the letter were that the Rajah of Berar relied upon Cheetoo's not plundering on his frontier and exhorting him to plunder the territories of the enemy. Cheetoo asked the Barreedar who was meant by the enemy. He said he had no verbal message, and knew nothing about it. An answer was then written but I do not yet know to what purport.

It is fixed that on the Sunday after the Teej (or the 9th January) the expedition will be commenced.

(A true translation.)

(Sd.) RICHARD JENKINS,
Resident.

Letter No. 19.—The enclosure gives details about the mutual relations and activities of the Pindari Chief.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO
SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp, 15th January 1814.

I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of a report which I have received from Sutwas.

Cheetoo is encamped as before (near Hindia). This day the 8th of Mohurram (1st January) the party from this Horde who went for plunder to the southward returned empty handed, having had an action with the troops of the Nizam. The person whom I sent joined them on their return. In that affair about 50 men of the party were killed and their Horses fell into the hands of the Nizam's troops. 104 men were wounded, and near 200 Horses and 40 Camels, besides other things, were lost. They have had a difficult retreat.

Yesterday another party set off towards Burhanpore.

Khushal Kooer and Kauder Buksh, who were on the best terms, have become enemies. The former, on the 5th instant (29th December) attacked the Horde of Kauder Buksh, killed 10 men, wounded 12, and carried off 10 or 12 Horses with what else he could. He lost 2 killed and 10 or 12 wounded.

A letter has been written by Khushal Kooer to Captain Hari Singh, who commands Holkar's Artillery at Bagurreah, near Indore, and to the Barra Byes who are also there, telling them of his design to attack Cheetoo, requesting their co-operation, to which they appear to have agreed. Cheetoo, having gained intelligence of the design, has sent to endeavour to persuade Ambajee Pant to assist him. He has issued the strictest orders to the persons who have charge of the collections of Oonchode, Sutwas, and other places to be on their guard, which they are accordingly, and keep their troops constantly under arms. In the Horde, the alarm of Khushal Kooer is very strong. For a day or two past Holkar's Artillery and the Barra Byes have been employed in attacking Bagurreah, the Zamindars of which are refractory. The nephew of the principal Zamindar has been killed.

A letter was received from Cheetoo by Mootee Kooer, who has charge of Sutwas, on the subject of being prepared against Khushal Kooer. Mootee Kooer showed me the letter which I have contrived to keep and I transmit it, the original, herewith.

Letter No. 20.—The short letter gives information about the strength and movements of the Pindaries.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—H. RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

Nagpur, the 23rd January 1814.

I have just received a report from my news-writer in Cheetoo's camp, that on Monday the 16th instant, 9,000 Pindaries set out from the neighbourhood of Hindia, in three bodies. Two thousand five hundred under Shekh Dulla were destined for Berar, two thousand five hundred for the direction of Taptee Changdeo in Khandesh, and four thousand for Nagpur.

Some of the latter party were about Betul on the night of the 20th.

Letter No. 21.—The enclosure to this letter which is addressed by Mr. Adam to Mr. R. Strachey, Resident with Dowlat Rao Sindhia under the same date impresses upon the Resident the urgency of pressing the Sindhia and his ministers to take steps against the Pindaries who had brought their families south of the Nerbudda.

FROM—JOHN ADAM, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

TO—RICHARD JENKINS, ESQUIRE, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, 28th January 1814.

I am directed to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of a letter addressed to the Resident with Doulat Rao Sindeah on this day's date under the authority of the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council.

TO—R. STRACHEY, ESQUIRE, RESIDENT WITH DOULAT RAO SINDEAH.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 5 under date the 8th instant reporting your proceedings in execution of the instructions communicated to you in my letter of the 26th of November relative to the Pindaries who have removed their families to the southward of the Nurbuddah with the apparent design of establishing themselves permanently in that quarter.

The Governor-General in Council observes with concern the supineness and indifference manifested by Doulat Rao Sindeah and his ministers on a question of so much importance to their own interest as that to which you called their attention at the conferences described in your letter and the sentiments expressed by you

with regard to the temporising and short-sighted policy pursued by the Darbar towards the Pindarries correspond entirely with those of the Governor-General in Council.

The Governor-General in Council cannot encourage any sanguine hopes of rousing Sindhia to a just sense of his true interests in this respect or of exciting him to adopt vigorous measures for circumscribing the means and repressing growth of a power which threatens at no distant period to become so formidable to his own as well as to the other established Governments of India. The Governor-General in Council has no doubt either that Sindeah is swayed by motives such as those which you ascribed to him in the concluding observation of your letter.

While therefore it is not to be expected that any decided measures will be taken by Sindeah, it will be desirable that you should keep the subject alive and omit no opportunity of urging the Darbar to instruct its officers south of the Nurbuddah to effect the removal of the families of the Pindarries and to avail themselves of any opportunity of attacking their force, also to afford their officers the necessary support to enable them to execute their orders with efficiency. It would seem from the tenor of the arguments employed by Sindeah's ministers in the discussions reported in your dispatch, that this precise object was not particularly pressed upon them by you since their arguments apply rather to a general and comprehensive plan of operation directed to the destruction of the Pindarry's power than to the limited object at present contemplated by Government.

At the same time His Excellency concludes that your observation to the ministers that the Governor-General in Council was prepared for every contingency was made with reference only to the eventual employment of the Jaulna force against the Pindarries to the south of the Nurbuddah. As however there is a hazard of misconception on the part of Sindeah's Government with respect to the extent to which the British Government is prepared to act and as assurances of the undefined and general nature afforded by you may lead the ministers to expect a co-operation on the part of this Government in any measures which they may determine to adopt, I am directed to recommend great caution to avoid exciting hopes of that nature, which the Governor-General in Council is not prepared to fulfil.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Fort William:

The 28th January 1814.

J. ADAM,

Secretary to Government.

Letter No. 22.—The enclosure to this letter addressed by Mr. Adam to H. Russell, Resident at Hyderabad, under the same date refers to the Government's desire to expel the Pindaries' families recently moved to the regions south of the Nerbudda by force of arms, for which the co-operation of the Nizam's Government and of the Sindhia is requested.

FROM—JOHN ADAM, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, 11th February 1814.

I am directed to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of a letter addressed to the Resident at Hyderabad on this day's date under the authority of His Excellency the Governor General in Council.

TO—HENRY RUSSELL, ESQUIRE, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 25th of December in reply to the letter which I had the honour to address to you under date the 26th of the preceding month, relative to the Pindaries who had lately proceeded with their families to the south of the Nerbudda with the apparent design of establishing themselves permanently in that quarter. Your dispatch of the 13th of January enclosing the copy of a letter addressed to you by Captain Sydenham in reply to your communication to him on the same subject has also been received.

You will have received from the Resident with Doulut Rao Sindiah a copy of his despatch to the Governor General No. 5 a copy of the reply to which, has also been transmitted to you.

The result of Mr. Strachey's conference with Sindia's ministers affording little reason to hope that any effectual measures will be adopted by that Durbar with a view to accomplish the objects of this Government as stated in the instructions of the 26th of November, it becomes proper to consider the steps which may be taken for carrying them into effect, independently of the co-operation of Sindia, or at least with the limited aid which can be obtained from the local officers of His Highness's Government, south of the Nerbudda unsupported by the Durbar.

It would appear that the Killadar of Asceurgurh is not indisposed to employ his efforts to oppose the progress and designs of the Pindaries, and it is not improbable that he may be excited to exert himself with vigour and cordiality in the support of any measures which it may be determined to adopt for this purpose.

The state of preparation for active service in which the force at Jalna is placed, and the arrangements for securing the co-operation of an efficient of His Highness the Nizam's horse, which have been concerted between Captain Sydenham and Rajah Govind

Buksh under your instructions combined with the judicious distribution of the remainder of His Highness's force appear to offer the best and readiest means of making decisive attacks on the Pindaries to the south of Nurbuda to the extent, at least of driving them beyond the river and compelling them to withdraw their families to the northern side.

Obvious considerations suggest the expediency of abstaining from entering Sindia's territory except in a case of great and pressing emergency, such as is not apparent in the present instance without the previous permission of that Government or at least of the local authorities. As an application from you to the latter in the present instance will, if attended with success, save considerable time, I am instructed to desire that you will immediately open a communication with them directed to that object urging the motives which ought to influence all the regular states in India to oppose by every means at their command of extension of the power of the Pindaries on stating that the subject is at present in agitation at the Durbar of the Maharajah who will be requested to issue immediate orders to his officers to admit the British troops into His Highness's territory for the purposes stated.

You will also call on them to afford every practicable degree of assistance to the British troops which shall be employed on the proposed service, and to co-operate with them by every means in their power.

You will immediately forward to Mr. Strachey copies of your communication to Sindia's officers.

You will exercise your discretion with regard to the expediency of authorizing Colonel Rumbey to make a forward movement to the frontier of the Nizam's country so as to enable him to enter the territory of Doulut Rao Sindia on receiving information of the concurrence of His Highness's officers in that measure. Such a movement may it is true give the alarm to the Pindaries, and render the chance of overtaking and attacking them, still less, but as the main object of the measure now in contemplation is to force them to return with their families to the north of Nurbuda and as the prospect of coming up with them to the southward of the river is under any circumstances extremely faint, this demonstration of our intentions may have an useful effect and perhaps precludes the necessity of advancing into Sindia's territory.

It is superfluous to admit that if the answer from Sindia's officers be unfavourable, it is the desire of Government you should abstain from authorizing the troops to cross the I am directed to take this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your despatch of the 21st of January enclosing the intelligence concerning the Pindaries received with Captain Sydenham's letter to your address of the 15th of that month. That information tends to confirm the belief that it is the intention of the Pindaries to

establish themselves permanently to the southward of the Nerbudda and the importance of adopting early measures force them.

It appears to His Lordship in council to be extremely desirable that eventual measures should be taken by Sindia for defending these passes near Aseergurh described in paper of intelligence transmitted by Captain Sydenham and Mr Strachey will be instructed to press this on the Maharajah and to urge him to furnish to Killadar of Aseergurh with the means of occupying them with troops

I have the honour, to be,
Sir,

Fort William
The 11th February 1814.

J ADAM,
Secretary to Government

Letter No 23—The letter encloses an Akhbar from Hindia dated 5th June which conveys useful information about the Pindaries, Jean Baptiste, etc.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COLONEL DOVETON, CAMP AKOLA

Nagpur, 10th June 1815

I have the honour to forward for your information the translation of a paper of intelligence I have just received from the Nerbudda.

About 200 of the party of Pindaries first mentioned are reported by my Hirkarrahs to have proceeded by Betul and Multai to plunder in the Rajah's country to the north of Nagpur

Translation of a Marhatta Akhbar from Hindia, dated 5th June

Sectoc Pindarrahs with his baggage is encamped three coss to the Westward of Ujjain. From that encampment one thousand picked horsemen have crossed the Nerbudda at the Baglatur Ghat, and proceeded by the route of Mel down the Putag Ghat. Where they are going is not ascertained

Wasil Mohammed the brother of Dost Mohammed is encamped at Bhilsa. Two thousand horse of his Camp have crossed the Nerbudda at the Bharuk Ghat and are arrived in the vicinity of Shohagpur Babae. More are expected to follow, such is the report.

Sectoo is to establish his cantonments below the Ghats at Hurrengaon. Colonel Jean Baptiste, Jeswant Rao Bhow, Krishna Rao Bhow and Rajah Bahadur (Sindhia's Commanders) and Burra Runjan, Chhota Runjan, Namdar Khan and Buksh Khan, etc., Pindaries, are five coss on this side of Sarangpore. It is reported they are to canton at Dowlatpore, but at present they are above the Ghats.

(A true translation)

Letter No. 24.—The letter contains enclosures that convey useful information regarding the strength and movements of the Pindari leaders.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—F. WARDEN, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, BOMBAY.

Nagpur, the 22nd October 1815.

I have the honour to transmit for the information of the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council further accounts respecting the Pindaries, received by this Government and communicated to me.

Translation of an extract from a Marhatta letter from Chundajee Bhonsla to the Rajah of Berar, dated 9th of Zeelkad or 13th October, Camp at Bhadoogaon.

After compliments. I, before sent a letter by a Camel Hircarrah in which I enclosed some Persian papers, found where I took the gun in the battle with Roshan Beg. These papers contained reports from a Vakeel sent by him to Seetoo Pindarra, of conversations held with Seetoo, and also a letter from Seetoo to Roshan Beg. I ought to have mentioned this in the letter enclosing the papers in question, but I omitted it. Your Highness will have learnt from those papers what passed between the Vakeel and Seetoo.

I have just received a letter from the Goosain at Gangeshri (on the Nerbudda) dated the 6th instant, and also accounts from Temboornee, mentioning that the Pindaries will cross on Sunday, the 11th instant. I am accordingly prepared and have stationed Hircarrahs for intelligence both at Hindia and Gangeshri. I have also sent the necessary orders to Saoleegarh, Betul and Multai.

Translation of a letter from the Rajah of Berar's intelligencer at Seoni, dated the 9th of Zeelkad or 13th October.

Mirza Roshan Beg is encamped at Khandwa. He has written to Khurgaon Butteese for reinforcements, and accordingly troops are coming from thence to join him.

Seetoo Nawab, Namdar Khan Jamadar, Imam Buksh Holkar Shahi, and Tookkoo Jummadar, etc., are about to undertake an expedition with their Pindaries, and their horses are all shod. Two hundred of their horse came to reconnoitre the fort of Buglatir, where the water is about a man's height. They were prepared to have started on the 6th, when the Karim Shahee Dhurra which is at Bairsa (Bhelsa), wrote to Seetoo that they would join him in the expedition with 2,000 horse. Seetoo, Namdar and Tookkoo Jamadar are going with the Luhbur. Seetoo in person conducts the Luhbur, which will certainly cross on Sunday by the Buglatir

Ghat. Whether they will go into Berar, or to Burhanpore does not appear. All the Pindaries but the Tooraces (I believe the Matchlock men) who remain in the pergunnahs are assembled at Nemawar with Seetoo.

Ramdeen, Holkar's Commander, is encamped at Tuppah.

(True translation)

R. JENKINS,
Resident at Nagpur

Letter No 25.—The letter gives information about the movements of the Pindaries and their intention to proceed as far as the Krishna river.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COL. DOVETON, COMMANDING THE HYDER-
ABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE.

Nagpur, 2nd March 1816.

Letters from Nirmal, dated the 27th February, mention the appearance on that day of a body of Pindaries in that district. They seem to have immediately passed on to the Southward. My Hircarrahs describe them as a body of 5 or 6,000. They were proceeding by moderate marches, and have hitherto met with no opposition of consequence. The Kistna was talked of as their destination.

Letters from Betul, dated the 27th, mention 500 Pindaries belonging to Dost Mohammed and Kadir Buksh to have lately crossed the Nerbudda and Sheikh Dulla, the Grassia Chief of Dhungaon and the Bara Bhai whose numbers are not mentioned to be preparing for an expedition.

A small party of about 300 Pindaries, is reported to have just passed up with plunder towards Multai, probably a detachment from the main body which has proceeded to the Godavery.

Letter No 26.—The enclosure to this letter gives useful information regarding the incursions of the Pindaries as far as Masulipatam.

FROM—G. WELLESLEY, ACTING RESIDENT WITH
SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp, 3rd March 1816

I have the honour to enclose a copy of my dispatch of this date to the Secretary to Government in the Political Department.

Sindhia's Camp, the 3rd March 1816.

To—JOHN ADAM, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I have the honour of transmitting for the acquaintance of Government some further particulars received by me last night respecting the Pindarrahs inroad into the Deccan.

The newswriter's confused statement respecting the Masulipatam river, and the impracticability of its passage to the Pindarrahs in their late invasion of the Deccan, is illustrated in Mr. Jenkins' dispatch to Government of the 22nd December, wherein he reports them to have been turned aside by a branch of the river Kistna at the mouth of which Masulipatam lies.

G. WELLESLEY,
Acting Resident.

Substance of news from Chetoo's Camp received on the 2nd March.

SIR,

The Lubhur, which I before reported to be ready to go from Chetoo's Durrah, went off yesterday the 17th February towards the Deccan, in number about 5 or 6,000 well-armed and equipped. It is reported they are gone towards the places where they were before plundering. Beyond Hyderabad there is a place called Muchlee-bunder; there they propose going. These disturbers plunder wherever they find it profitable. When they went before, they wanted to cross the river there and plunder on the other side; but they could in no way cross the Muchlee-bunder river which at that time was full. Now they propose going there again in the hope that it has fallen, and will admit of a passage. About 200 Pindarrahs from the Dhurrahs of Kadir Buksh and Tuckoji of Kinnode and Kanthapoor have accompanied them.

(A true translation)

G. WELLESLEY,
Acting Resident.

Letter No. 27.—The letter and enclosure reveal the military dispositions ordered by the Colonel to encounter the Pindaris on their advance and their return.

FROM—COL. J. DOVETON, COMMANDING HYDERABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Camp, 23rd March 1816.

Accompanying I have the honour to transmit for your information copy of a dispatch addressed by me this day to Mr. Russell, in reply to his of the 19th instant, as also a copy of my letter of instructions to Lieutenant-Col. Scott.

TO—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SCOTT, COMMANDING
A DETACHMENT

SIR,

I am directed by Colonel Doveton to request that you will proceed with the detachment detailed in the orders of this day agreeably to the accompanying route, and take up a position at Waukery 13 miles south of Adjuntah, for the purpose of preventing the Pindaries escaping to the northward, by that Ghat or any other in its vicinity.

At Chickly you will be joined by a thousand of the Nizam's horse, under the command of Gulam Knuckbund Khan or his brother, who have received orders to accompany you and remain under your command.

The force under the Commanding Officer will resume its former situation at the head of the Sackimnany Ghat and detachments from the Poona Subsidiary Force will occupy positions at the head of the Cassaberry and Unkunenka Ghats.

You will be careful in keeping up a regular and incessant communication with the Commanding Officer of the Force, for which purpose Camel Hircarrahs will accompany you and you will likewise establish one with the officer commanding the troops in the vicinity of the Cassaberry Ghat.

It will be advisable to throw out in all directions small parties of the Nizam's Horse, in order to get the speediest intelligence of the approach of the Pindaries should they attempt to penetrate through your line of communication.

Camp near Kattu
The 23rd March 1816.

(Illegible),
Dy Qr Mr General.
(True copy)

J DOVETON,
Colonel.

Letter No 28.—The letter, a copy of which was also sent to Mr R. Jenkins under the same date refers to the movements of the Pindari leaders, and the action taken by Dowlat Rao Sindhia against them.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO
SINDHIA.

TO—THE RT HON'BLE THE EARL OF MOIRA, K.G,
GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Sindhia's Camp Gwahor, 28th March 1816.

I have the honour to acquaint Your Excellency that information has been received here stating that Cheetoo Pindarah has recrossed the Nerbudda. I have also received accounts from his Horde, which was near Chepancer on the 18th instant, on the right bank of that river, about fourteen miles from his former position.

A large body of these marauders (of Kerreem's party) under Khooshal Kooer, have moved to the south-westward from the neighbourhood of Shoojawulpur.

Ameer Khan quitted Holkar's camp on the 17th instant, and, after visiting Zaulim Sing at Gangrowr, proceeded to Sheergur, where he now remains. Kerreem Khan has since followed him to Sheergur, where the families of both these chiefs reside. Ameer Khan's army is in the territory of Kota, and since his proceeding to Sheergur has made a few marches in a south-easterly direction, under Omar Khan.

Dowlat Rao Sindiah has admitted the expediency of blocking up route to the Deccan as far as may be practicable with a view to obstruct the Pindaries. The Maharaja has informed me that he has transmitted orders to Asseer and Boorhanpur directing the adoption of measures for the opposition of the Pindaries, should they hereafter attempt to cross by the passes in that neighbourhood according to the tenor of my communication to His Highness which was made agreeably to Your Excellency's instructions of the 11th and 26th ultimo.

Her Highness Bala Bye returned to camp, having concluded her pilgrimage to Allahabad, Benares and Gya a few days ago.

Letter No. 29.—The letter gives an account of the unsuccessful pursuit of the Pindaris by the Colonel, and also of a successful encounter by one of his commanders—Bhim Rao, which resulted in the destruction of a small band of the Pindaris.

FROM—COL. J. DOVETON, COMMANDING THE
HYDERABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE.

TO—H. RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

Camp 1 mile east of Chikli, 12th April 1816.

My dispatch of the 10th instant will have informed you of my having just then received accounts from one of my advanced parties stationed at Sindkhair, of the approach of the Pindaries, and their apparent intention of proceeding in the direction of Tulnee, with the view as supposed of pushing through the Alleegaum pass about 20 miles to the eastward of my position at Sonah.

I, in consequence, moved at 8 O'clock that evening with the force under my command in the direction of Maker, to frustrate their supposed intent, as well as to endeavour to strike a blow at them. I had not however proceeded on by march above 7 miles when I received information that the advanced party of Pindaries after plundering a place named Seoni in the direction to Tulnee from Sindkhair, had suddenly turned to the north-west, and were then marching rapidly as supposed, for the Dewalghat. I immediately retraced my steps to Sonah, and pushed on the Mysore

Horse under Bhim Rao Bukshi for the Ghat to intercept and cut them off, as I was convinced they were only the advance of the principal party. He fortunately succeeded in effecting this object, and his subsequent operations, as well as the supposed loss of the enemy, will best appear from the accompanying translation of his official report to me.

In the course of the morning of the 11th I received information from some prisoners taken by Bhim Rao as well as from other sources of intelligence, that the main body of Pindaries were advancing—one of the prisoners on promise of his life being spared, and an handsome reward in the event of success, undertook to lead me to the precise spot where the main body then were, and I accordingly marched with the light troops at 4 o'clock that evening, in the direction of Tailgaon during the course of the night as I continued advancing, all the intelligence which I could procure convinced me we were in the right direction, and this was confirmed about 8 o'clock by the arrival of a Trooper from my advanced scouts with information of their being actually encamped at the time of his departure, between the villages of Tailgaon and Mangrul. On pursuing about 2 coss further I fell in with an intelligent Puttail at the village of Kahorah about 4 coss from Tailgaon who informed me that the principal body of Pindaries had arrived in the vicinity of the latter place at 2 o'clock on that morning, and that his latest accounts which came down to noon still left them encamped between Mangrul and Tailgaon which places, they had attempted to plunder, but until that time had been opposed with effect by the inhabitants, at the same time offering to lead me direct to their encampment. The detachment therefore proceeded on towards that village of Unchalwanee only about a coss and a half from Tailgaon in high spirits, and under the pleasing impression that the surprize of these plunderers would be complete, when arriving near it about midnight, to my inexpressible mortification, one of my scouts came in with intelligence that they had moved off with great precipitation about 5 o'clock in the evening and crossing the country over some rugged height, had proceeded in a direct line for the Ajanta Ghat. This was confirmed on our arrival at the village of Unchalwarree, by the Patel of that place who had been in their Camp only a few hours previous. He stated them to be about 6,000 well mounted apparently loaded with plunder and having several elephants with them. The force remained at this place until day light and I was not without faint hopes from the direction the Pindaries appeared to have taken that the detachment under Lieutenant-Colonel Scott might hear of their approach and fall in with them. On arriving here however I found from various quarters, as well as from the officer commanding the Company in possession of the Dewalghat that they had passed through the range of hills about a coss and a half to the westward, between that Ghat and the Ajanta by a pass hitherto almost unknown to us, and only practicable I believe for horse and foot.

During the course of the morning, I have received a dispatch from Major Hodgson at Jaina, which would almost induce the supposition that another party of Pindaries were following although all the prisoners agree in the information that the party which have passed comprize the whole of those who crossed the Nerbudda in February, although I cannot learn distinctly when they reunited. It is however my intention to move a few miles to the west of Chickly tomorrow morning for the purpose of making it sure, as this appears to have been their favourite route.

In concluding this detail of our operations, it now falls to me to perform the pleasing duty of requesting your attention to the meritorious conduct of Bukshi Bhim Rao, and the Mysore Silledar Horse under his command. From his purport I have every reason to suppose, that the greater part of the advanced body of Pindaries consisting of about 400 have been severely handled and that but few of them have escaped.

I shall do myself the honour of addressing you again in a few days as soon as I shall be able to ascertain whether the whole of these plunderers have actually made their escape, and hope as the season is now far advanced, to receive your instructions with regard to our future movement in advance.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Camp 1 mile east of Chikhli:
The 12th April 1816.

J. DOVETON,
Colonel.

P. S.—I think I may venture to assert that every previous arrangement which infinitely could devise for procuring speedy intelligence of the movements of the Pindaries had been made. Indeed nothing but several untoward circumstances, which no foresight could provide against, prevented their total destruction.

1st. The trooper who came from Mangrul with the first intelligence was mislead at Chikhli, where he was informed that I had proceeded to the Badoolah Ghat in pursuit of the advanced party—he accordingly galloped there when he found I was at Sonah, and before he could arrive at this place; I had marched by this circuitous route there was a delay of 6 hours in the first intelligence.

2nd. A camel Hircarrah who was sent express to Lieut.-Colonel Scott in the coercing of the 10th with orders to him to proceed immediately to take up a central position west of the Dewal Ghat, was taken prisoner by the advanced party of Pindaries and lost his camel, although he saved the dispatches. These were sent

after me by the Aumil of Chikhli in the direction on which we had first moved, and by that means missed me at Sonah, where they did not arrive till 11 o'clock on the morning of the 11th and were then to be forwarded on again to Colonel Scott. Had these reached Col Scott as I calculated on, he would have been precisely in their front when they were moving to escape from us at it was, I find he only reached the position about the time they were making their way through the range of hills.

J DOVETON,
Colonel.

Translation of a letter from Bhimrao Bukshi of the Mysore Silledar Horse to Colonel Doveton, giving an account of his affair with the Pindaries, dated 12th April 1816.

After compliments.

Having received your instructions and taken leave, I proceeded with the Silledar Horse under my command in the direction pointed out by you. About 7 o'clock in the morning of the 11th I came in sight of the Pindaries, who immediately on perceiving my force moved off with great rapidity. I pursued them upwards of 2 coss below the range of hills, the greater part of them were killed or wounded, and the remainder made their escape by dispersing individually in various directions. I have captured one hundred and seventy-six horses and tattoos, also one camel and taken few prisoners. My own loss amounts to 2 men killed and 20 wounded, 11 horses killed, 4 wounded and 3 missing. On my return to a village above the pass, I learnt that a still larger body of Pindaries were coming and immediately afterwards heard that you had marched with the Force in the direction on which those Pindaries were proceeding. In consequence I returned to Sonah.

(A true translation)

J MORGAN,
Captain.

Letter No 30.—The letter gives an interesting account of the organization, manner of line and movement of the Pindaries.

FROM—COLONEL J DOVETON, COMMANDING THE
HYDERABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Camp near Chikhli, 16th April 1816.

I have the honour to transmit the substance of the information which has been obtained from one of the most intelligent of the Pindarrahs followers, taken by the Mysore Horse and which has been confirmed by 4 others examined separately

Examination of Khandu Pindarraha taken prisoner by the Mysore Horse, under Bhim Rao Bukshi, made on the 14th of April 1816.

Question	Answer
(1)	(2)
What is your name	Khandu.
Who is the chief of the party to which you were immediately attached ?	Bheeka Syud.
What was the strength of the party ? ..	Upwards of 300.
What was the amount of the whole Luhbar ?	10,000 horse of various descriptions.
Of whose Dhurrahs was it composed ?	7,000 of Seetoo's, 1,500 of the Holkar Shahee's, 1,000 of Karim Khan's and 500 of Dost Mohammed's.

Narrative

We were all collected at Nemawar, to the amount of 10,000 and crossed the Nerbudda at the Baglatir Ghat. We proceeded by the Muckree Ghat, Mail, Maisdee, Ashti, Amner, and crossed the river Wardha below Chanda, proceeded by Edlabad, passed the Godavery leaving Dharampuri 10 coss to the left, crossed the Kistna near Amraoti, plundered the outskirts of the town, moved on towards Guntoor, plundering some places whose names I do not recollect. Guntoor was plundered by the advanced party, who might be about a hundred horse, who obtained some booty, but not much, perhaps the whole did not exceed two or three thousand rupees. On being fired upon by some sepoy, we quitted Guntoor with precipitation for Mungalgerry, which we were prevented from plundering by having armed people in it, thence we moved to Kummum, forty or fifty horsemen pushed on towards the place, but got entangled in the paddy fields where one of the horses stuck fast, and the remainder being fired upon by some troops galloped back and joined the main body. We halted at a small village about half a coss from Kummum, where a consultation was held and it was determined to return by the same route as we advanced to Kummum, but having understood from a Bunjari whom we met with at a small village on our way, that the principal fords of the Kishnah were occupied by troops, and who promised to conduct us across the river by an unfrequented Ghat, we followed the road pointed out by him. We had scarcely crossed the Kistna and were dressing our victuals, when a regiment of cavalry made its appearance, in consequence we moved off immediately from thence in the direction of Hyderabad, and when we had arrived within 12 coss of the city, we separated into the two bodies. The one to which I belonged under Bhika Syud, proceeded leaving Hyderabad 4 coss on the right, plundered Chundapett, and taking only byepaths, and plundering all the small villages on our route recrossed the Godavery in the neighbourhood of Beer, advanced leaving Jalna 12 coss to our left, ascended a small Ghat near Sindkhair, from whence we made two

marches, and halted near Goderee, about a coss from Chikhli and three coss from the British Camp, in among the hills, at the same time some of our people who were looking about for forage and firewood, found a camel, and brought it to Bhika Syud who said there must be a Camp somewhere in this vicinity, and accordingly we were all on the alert. Seeing a light at a distance, Bhika Syud with 10 horsemen went in the direction of it and about an hour afterwards returned with the intelligence that the force had marched in another direction. We then moved two coss and again halted for the remainder of the night, at day break we mounted and had gone about a coss when we were overtaken by the Mysore Sillehdar Horse. Of the movements of the main body after our separation I am perfectly ignorant.

Question	Answer
After you separated from the main body was no place fixed for rejoining?	Yes, in the vicinity of Pandharpur, but however it did not take place.
Who was the principal Chief of the Luhbar?	Hussain Bukah commonly called Bakahu.
For what purpose did you commence your expedition?	To cross the Kishna and go into Tippu Sultan's country.
Did you not know at the time there was no such country?	No, it was reported in the camp that we were going to Tippu Sultan's country, but after we had crossed the Kistna, we learnt the country belonged to the English.
What were the arrangements made previous to the collection of the Luhbar?	We all assembled at the command of Seetoo and departed on the Luhbar according to his instructions.
What is your mode of life during the rains?	On our return from an expedition we all repair to Seetoo and give him an account of our operations, then we disperse to our several homes, which are situated near the banks of the Nerbudda, and in the Bhopal country, at the distance of ten or twenty coss.
Do you remain together in cantonment during the monsoon or in the different villages?	We remain in cantonment during the rains, those belonging to Seetoo's Dhurra at Nemawar, those of Karim Khan's at Raicem, Dost Mohammed's Dhurra in the neighbourhood of Bhilaa at Ganeshpur. The Holkar Shahee Dhurrah's are stationed as follows:— Garde Khan at Kunnade, Kadir Bukah at Katapore, and Sahib Khan and Bahadur Khan at Ekharah.
What preparation do you make before you proceed on a Luhbar?	As long as we continue in Sindhia's country we purchase everything. Afterwards we depend entirely on plunder.
Since you carry no provision along with you, how did so large a body as the last Luhbar continue to subsist?	We mutually assist each other, depending entirely on what we can procure from the villages on our route or any convoys we may meet, but are often exposed to temporary privations.
Under whose authority do you consider yourselves?	Under that of Sindhia and Holkar but the majority under the former.

Question

Answer

To what length is it considered the authority of Sindhia and Holkar extends?

Our proceedings are supposed to be regulated by the orders of these Chiefs and we plunder and spare the countries according to their directions, whenever they require our services we always join them.

For what reason do you submit to the authority in these matters?

Because our families find refuge in their dominions, and in the event of our being attacked we should fly there for shelter.

Then you never plunder under any circumstances the territories of Sindhia and Holkar?

Never except by stealth, we have been in the habits for these last 12 years of plundering the Nagpur territories but of late the Dhurras of Seetoo and Karim have not done so in consequence of an agreement.

In the event of a pursuit after the Pindaries what is the best mode of intercepting them?

On their return from an expedition when laden with plunder, because then they are incapable of making such rapid marches as at first, their horses being fatigued, by the journey and incumbered with their loads. Should we be pursued across the Nerbudda we would disperse to our several cantonments, and take refuge in Sindhia's territories.

In what manner are the marches of the Pindaris conducted?

When we set out I have no apprehension we march generally seven or eight cossa day, because we wish to reserve our horses for occasions when it may be requisite to make every exertion, but if we have reason to fear a pursuit we can move 20 or 25 coss, and can continue at this rate for twenty days if necessary.

On your return from an expedition when laden with plunder what is usual rate of marching?

About 20 coss a day, we start at day light and continue marching till 12 o'clock, when we halt in the jungle till about 3 or 4 o'clock in the evening, when we resume our march till midnight. In all our marches—both coming and going we avoid the high roads and proceed by the most unfrequented paths.

How are you generally armed?

.. With spears and swords and but few matchlocks, at an average of about five to every hundred men—some of the principal officers may have pistols.

What may be the strength of the Pindaries?

About 10,000 good horse, and of various other descriptions 5 or 6,000.

In what manner do you feed your horses that they are able to stand such extraordinary fatigue?

We generally feed them in grain such as Chunna, Jowaree, Tooree, in short, whatever we can get, besides we have a preparation of opium essence, blue stone and other ingredients which I cannot particularise and we accustom them when going to bear fatigue. Out of fifty horses we got at Chundapett only five were able to keep up.

When you conceive you are liable to be overtaken by a body of Horse in pursuit of your party what do you do on such an occasion?

We move off together in a body and continue so as long as we can. Those who fall in the rear are left to their fate, we never stop to defend them.

Question

Answer

When you proceed on an expedition are you under the orders of a particular chief or is every party only subject to its own commander.

We are nominally under the orders of a particular chief termed the Lubburee, but if any person desires to separate from the main body no notice is taken of it.

How do you procure intelligence? ..

We never send out persons for intelligence, but struggling parties bring all the information they may obtain on their route and in case of any of our own people missing the main body, we set fire to a village, or a stock of forage as points for them to proceed on.

In what manner do you dispose of your booty?

Every man retains what he gets, with the exception of elephants which are usually given to Seetoo who in return makes a present.

J. MORGAN, Captain,
Persian Interpreter.

Letter No. 31.—The letter gives information about the activities of the Pindaries and the enclosure contains a list of the places on the route between Kassurbaree to Lakhanwara.

FROM—G. SYDENHAM, AGENT IN BERAR.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Aurangabad, 17th April 1816.

I have the honour to forward for your information a copy of my letter of yesterday's date to the Resident at Hyderabad.

TO—HENERY RUSSELL, ESQUIRE, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

SIR,

I lately dispatched two Hirkarrahs to explore the Ghats from Kassurbaree to Lakhanwara, who arrived here this morning with a list of them a translation of which I have the honour to enclose.

These Hirkarras inform me that on the 11th instant, they were in the village of Asola, near which 300 Pindaries passed on that day, moving slowly as if much jaded, the loaded Tattoos dismounted, and led by cords held by the horsemen, about one hundred of whom were on horses with docked-tails. They afterwards heard that this party had been attacked by some of our troops, and I have no doubt that they were the Pindaries with whom the Mysore Horse came up, represented to amount to 700. Asola is five coss south-east of Sailgaon, which lies at a similar distance east of Jafferabad.

On the 12th the Hirkarras passed within a mile of 1,500 Pindaries on their ground at Paluskhera near Jaum north-east of Sinoka where they saw two elephants with flags of gold cloth and a few camels. A villageman who had escaped from this body informed them that they had an European gentleman and a lady prisoners, who were obliged to ride on the march in the middle of the party. This the inhabitants called a body of three thousand.

The third division, which the Hirkarra did not see, were said to amount to form two to three thousand, but did not probably consist of more than twelve hundred, and I calculate that the whole of the three divisions, which have lately made their escape down the Ghats to the eastward of Ajanta, did not amount to much more than 3,000 or about a fourth of the number represented by flying reports.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Aurangabad :
16th April 1816.

G. SYDENHAM,
Agent in Berar.

List of passes from Kassurbaree to Lakhankwara according to the report of Hirkarrahs.

Coss

		From Kassurbaree	to	2	Passed by wheeled carriages.
		Purjuree.			
		Pipree .. ..	..	1	} Foot-paths for men but difficult for horses Fort near the Dhar pass.
		Dhar .. ..	..	1	
		Tirmukjee's Ghat	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	
P.	..	Mahadeo .. ..	..	$\frac{1}{4}$	
		Gunnesh or Puttun	..	3	Kunnera fort near the pas
		Ankaree .. ..	..	3	
		Amba .. ..	..	3	
		Ranjan .. ..	..	1	
		{ Khyr .. ..	..	1	} Foot-paths.
		{ Neem .. ..	..	1	
N.	..	{ Bhawani Aree	..	3	} Practicable for wheeled carriages.
		{ Gaotalla .. ..	..	1	
		{ Chotakoree .. ..	..	3	
		{ Mechoon .. ..	..	1	
M. E. J.	{	Lonja .. ..	..	2	Foot-path.
		Untoor .. ..	..	2	Fort.
		Seep .. ..	..	$2\frac{1}{2}$	
P.	..	Sendra .. ..	..	3	
M. E. J.		Sitoonda .. ..	..	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Fort.
P.	..	{ Jogesuree .. ..	..	4	} Foot-path Do.
		{ Moodesuree .. ..	..	4	
		{ Cowlee .. ..	..	4	

N	{ Nit	1	Foot-path.
	{ Gunnoah	1	Do
	{ Bytaulbaree	2	Foot paths Forts of Bytaulbaree and
	{ Huldea	1	Oussagurh.
	{ Furdapoor	7	Near Ajanta, Practicable for wheeled carriages. A large stone gateway without a Gate
Toudapur		3	
Junnoorra and Sawal Barra		1	
Musla		1	
Koorood		1	} Foot-paths.
Dhaba		1	
Dewalghat		1	} A large gateway without a gate.
Bidkobreo		1	
Khurkee		1	} Foot-paths.
Khur Khar		1	
Badoola		1	Passable by wheeled carriages.
Pulees Dhug		1	Foot path.
Wujeer			
Sirala			
Lakhanwara			Practicable for wheeled carriages.

NOTE.—N stands for Nizam, P for Peshwa, and M. E. J. for Muraja Ear Jung. The names of passes opposite to which there are no remarks, represent Ghats practicable for horse.

Aurangabad

G SYDENHAM,

The 16th April 1816

Agent in Berar.

Letter No 32.—The letter reports that Chitoo had recalled his family, followers and baggage from Hindia to Sutwas and that owing to the mutual quarrels, among the Pindari leaders their usual range of depredation south of the Nerbudda has been limited.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—H. RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

Nagpur, 18th April 1814.

I have the honour to transmit for your information some extracts from my latest intelligence respecting the Pindaries.

You will observe that Cheetoo's family and all his baggage and followers have at length been recalled from Hindia to Sutwas, their usual place of residence on the northern bank of the Nerbudda and in general it appears that the disputes of the Pindaries amongst themselves and with the petty chiefs in their neighbourhood, have contributed to restrain them from undertaking their usual extensive range of plunder and devastation to the south of the Nerbudda.

I have no direct accounts from Meer Khan's position but the reports that reach the Rajah by means of his Hirkarrahs, and the general tenor of collateral intelligence combine to show that he is concentrating his forces for his meditated southern expedition. The Rajah has not yet determined on his plan of defence.

The same as the above to the Residents at Poona and with Sindia and to Captain Sydenham.

Letter No. 33.—The enclosures to this letter are an address to John Adam and an abstract of intelligence. The last document contains information about the fight between Chitoo and Khushal Kunwar in which Chitoo was defeated and put to flight.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO
SINDHIA,

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp, 22nd April 1814.

I transmit herewith a copy of my letter of this date to the Secretary to Government in the Political Department.

TO—JOHN ADAM, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

Sindhia's Camp, 22nd April 1814.

SIR,

In my dispatch of the 16th instant to the address of His Excellency the Governor-General I noticed the hostile appearance which the Hordes of Cheetoo and of Kerreem's party had assumed towards each other.

Detailed accounts of their subsequent operations to the 12th instant having reached me since the date of that dispatch I do myself the honour to transmit an abstract from the reports which I have received.

I should observe that previously to the occurrences related in the encloser, Cheetoo had returned from Hindeah, where he left a small force and had joined his Durrah at Javagaon. His adversaries were at Dowlutpoor, between these places, to the southward of the latter, there is range of hills, the roads across which are by difficult passes forming a communication with the Nerbudda.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

RICHARD STRACHEY.

Abstract of intelligence from Durrah of Cheetoo Pindarah.

On the 8th instant a skirmish took place near the pass of Khairee in which Cheetoo had the advantage, the other party, under Khooshall Kooer being obliged to retreat. Both sides are stated to have suffered equally, viz., 25 killed and 50 wounded.

On the following day Khooshall Kooer again advanced from Dowlutpoor, by the pass of Toomree which he had cleared for the passage of guns and surprised a post of Cheetoo's infantry, who were stationed near that pass. Khooshall Kooer then advanced with 1,000 horse, 200 foot, and 2 guns towards Jevagaon, but he was suddenly attacked, in flank, by an inferior force under Omeid Kooer (an officer of Cheetoo) who was stationed at Futtehgurh, a post in advance of Jevagaon, and was defeated after a sharp action with the loss of his guns and upwards of 100 horses, which were taken by Omeid Kooer. He in consequence fell back to Dowlutpur, by the road on which he had advanced.

On the night of the 11th instant Khooshall Kooer, with a force of 15,000 men, horse and foot, moved from Dowlutpur. He first attacked the troops of Cheetoo posted for the defence of the passes, all of whom were put to the sword. He then advanced to the Durrah of Cheetoo which he succeeded in surprising, and the latter having lost about 100 killed, was obliged to fly. Khushall Kooer after having plundered Jevagaon followed him plundering every village which laid on the road. Cheetoo retreated to Kinoje, near which there has long been a cantonment of Holkar Sahee Pindaries which place he plundered. The latter, many of whom are with Cheetoo joined in the plunder of Kinoje, their own jageer. Cheetoo then gave an order for his own villages to the north of the Nerbudda to be laid waste, which was in part executed without delay.

Of the 15,000 troops with Khooshall Kooer, 2,000 horse, 2 battalions and 4 guns belong to the Chief of Bhopal. These auxiliaries commenced the attack on Cheetoo's Durrah by opening a fire of grape.

Cheetoo is at Kinoje, from whence Khooshall Kooer is encamped at the distance of about five miles.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

RICHARD STREACHEY,

Resident.

Letter No. 34.—The letter refers to the military strength of the Pindari leaders, and their intention of effecting a junction to raid Nagpur territories.

FROM—J. WAUCHOPE, SUPERINTENDENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, BUNDELKHAND.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Bundelkhand, 23rd April 1814.

Ameer Khan by my latest accounts, still continues at Sher Gurah with an escort of about two thousand horse. A Hircarrah belonging to the newswriter at Saugor who had been sent to

Seronge in quest of intelligence of Ameer Khan, returned on the 17th instant and reported that he had met with a Hircarrah deputed by Ameer Khan to Munnoo Mean the Aumil of Seronge, and giving himself out to be a traveller, he entered into conversation with him and gained from him the following intelligence:

That Ameer Khan's main army under the command of his nephew was then at Shujawalpur, 20 coss from Sheregurah in the direction of Bhopal; that he (the Hircarrah) had been sent by Ameer Khan to Munnoo Mean to desire him to assemble all his force and proceed with it towards Bhopal where Ameer Khan himself would shortly join him and from thence the whole would march into the territory of Nagpur. The army was stated by this Hircarrah to contain 16,000 Cavalry and upward of 100 Guns. The number of Infantry he did not state.

The Akbar from Ameer Khan's camp (which I at present receive by the way of Delhi), dated the 5th instant mentions, letters having been received by Ameer Khan from Omur Khan, the person commanding his army then at Agur in the Zillah of Shajihanpur near to Shujawalpur, representing the necessities of the troops, etc., and Mr. Strachey in a letter to the Governor-General, dated the 16th instant, of which he has sent me a copy, mentions that Ameer Khan's troops under Omur Khan have moved to Kilchipur committing their depredations on different places without regard to whom they belonged.

Should this information be correct it is probable that Ameer Khan, if he really intends to invade Nagpur, will cross the Nerbudda in the vicinity of Hindia which is so far remote from this province that it would be nearly impossible for the force from this quarter to obstruct the advance of Ameer Khan into the Berar country or to do more than intercept his retreat after he shall have been repulsed by the Subsidiary forces from the southward.

As I am in daily expectation of receiving more authentic intelligence direct from the camp of Ameer Khan, it is not my intention to take any steps on the present information towards the assemblage and advance of the troops in this quarter, but I entreat the favour of your furnishing me with the earliest possible intelligence you may receive of Ameer Khan's movements or those of his army, which, from the present comparative proximity of the latter to Nagpur, you may perhaps be enabled to obtain more speedily and accurately than I can. Early information of the advance of the force at Jaulna, whenever that measure may be determined on, as well as of any military arrangements which the Rajah of Berar may himself be making to avert the threatened danger, will also be of most essential importance in regulating our proceeding in this quarter, more especially as some time must be required to concentrate the troops to be eventually assembled on the frontier of this province from their present positions.

Letter No. 35.—The letter gives information about the incursions of the Pindaries, and the value of the booty they had secured during their late ravages beyond the Krishna.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COL. J. DOVETON, COMMANDING THE HYDERABAD SUBSIDIARY FORCE.

Nagpur, 29th April 1816.

I have the honour to enclose for your information translations of two papers of intelligence respecting the Pindaries.

A report from my newswriter at Betul mentions that 700 Pindaries had appeared in that neighbourhood on the 26th instant.

The same as the above to the Residents at Poona, Hyderabad and with Dowlat Rao Sindhia, and to Captain Sydenham at Aurangabad

Translation of an Akhbar from a newswriter at Hindia, dated the 22nd April.

Setoo and the elder Ranjun are at Nemawur. On Wednesday, the 17th, after an interval of two months and a half the plundering parties returned and entered Camp. The plundering parties of all three Dhurrahs have come together. All the Pindaries of Karim and the Holkar Shahee passed over by the Ghat of Hindia, and halted there for one night and marched in the morning. The party of the Holkar Shahee went to Kunode. Those of the Karim's division went up the Toomree Ghat and proceeded towards Sujawalpore. The Pindaries say they went two marches the other side of the river Krishna. The English had warned the country and placed all property in places of security. The villages were deserted. The plundering party had not acquired anything very extraordinary there but they had carried off four elephants and sixty camels, at Dewalghat owing to the pass being occupied all were left behind. One elephant was let go, and another was tied to a tree. Notwithstanding the Ghat the Bheels and an English Regiment made an attack upon them, and three hundred horses and men remained behind who have not been heard of since. In the vicinity of the river Krishna also two Regiments who were in pursuit were seen by them on one bank of the river whilst they were cooking on the other. The instant they saw them they mounted their horses and ran away for the space of three Manzils. Their none either of men or horses were lost. However, altogether the plundering party has suffered considerably, and at every village five or ten horses and men were left behind. Still property to the amount of one crore has been brought into the three Dhurrahs, as well as two good elephants. Buksh Khan Toraceh brought one elephant. Setoo made a present to him of a turban, a pair of Shawls and one thousand rupees. Twenty camels and seven horses belonged to a Regiment. Every one retains the horses and camels he brings. The elephants, Palki, Nukarruh, and standards they give up to the Sirkar receiving a reward in lieu. Such is the

custom. Bhana Toraceh who is under Karim brought one elephant. The Pindaries of Karim brought also fifteen camels and five horses. Ten camels have also been carried into the Dhurrah of the Holkar Shahee. The enumeration of the plunder is two elephants, forty-five camels and twelve horses. Sheikh Dulla has told the Pindaries to get their horses ready for an expedition to Surat to extend to the month of Asharh (the middle of June).

(From the same source, dated 24th April.)

On wednesday Sheikh Dulla with a thousand Pindary horse from the Dhurrah of Seetoo passed by the Ghat of Hindia and proceeded by Harda to the Melghat. It is not known whether they will pass into Berar or return. Sheikh Dulla has made an agreement in the Dhurrah with Sectoo and the Tooracehs, that he will go into Berar and return in twenty days, after which all the Pindaries are to unite in an expedition to Surat. Until then they are to get their horses ready and they actually have commenced giving them Musulih. A pair of Hirkarrahs has been sent by Seetoo into Berar to obtain intelligence concerning the forces, to learn where the English force is stationed, whether they are moving or fixed in one station as before. The Hircarrahs are ordered to procure exact information on these points.

(A true translation)

R. JENKINS,
Resident.

Letter No. 36.—The letter conveys the information that a body of Pindaries 4,000 strong had crossed the Nerbudda on the 27th or 28th April.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COL. J. DOVETON, COMMANDING, HYDERABAD
SUBSIDIARY FORCE.

Nagpur, 4th May 1816.

By accounts last night received from the Nerbudda, it appears that 4,000 Pindaries belonging to Wausil Mohammed crossed the Nerbudda at the Bharkus Ghat in the vicinity of Hoshangabad, on the 27th or 28th ultimo, half of which are said to have proceeded eastward towards Sreenugger, and half to be coming down in this direction.

Fresh accounts from Seetoo's camp represent a new expedition to be in contemplation, as soon as the horses are recruited from the fatigues of their late one, and a renewal of their attempts to the southward, as well as an expedition to Surat, is talked of as being proposed before the rains.

The same to the Chief Secretaries at Bombay and Madras, to the Residents at Hyderabad, Poona and Sindhia's Camp, and to Captain Sydenham.

Letter No. 37.—The enclosure to this letter which a copy of Mr. Strachey's address to the Governor-General under the same date gives useful information regarding the activities of the Pindaris and the strain of relations between the Holkar and Sindhia due to the ravages of the Pindaris attached to these two states, on the territories of each other.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA,

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp, 19th May 1814.

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of my dispatch of this date to the Right Honorable the Governor-General.

TO—HIS EXCELLENCY

THE RIGHT HON'BLE THE EARL OF MOIRA.

MY LORD,

Cheetoo after his defeat by the Pindaries of Kerreem's party fled to the south-westward of Oojain. He at length collected his dispersed hordes and joined Sindiah's Commander Jeswunt Rao Bhau, who has been gradually moving from Mewar by Mundessore and Dhar towards Oojain for sometime past. Their forces have now advanced towards the Pindaries of Kerreem who occupy most of Cheetoo's possessions, with the exception of Sutwas, which fortress, by the last accounts, they were besieging.

The late reverses sustained by Cheetoo are to be attributed in great measure to the co-operation of the Nabob of Bhopal and a body of Holkar's infantry and artillery, with his opponents. Holkar is aiding the Pindaries on one side and the other is aided by an army of Sindiah while both these chieftains have their object to be the reduction of those marauders.

Jeswunt Rao Bhau has written to Sindiah for instructions, but in the mean time he acts according to his own views. Sindiah has informed him that he has ordered Colonel Jean Baptiste to that quarter, that he must unite with Baptiste, and that they will act in concert. In the mean time Jeswunt Rao Bhau seems anxious to defeat the Pindaries before Baptiste's arrival.

Jeswunt Rao Bhau's troops for some months past have committed frequent depredations on Holkar's territory a conduct by no means extraordinary, such being the practice of Sindiah's and Holkar's officers towards the possession of each of these chiefs respectively. Since Cheetoo's junction with Jeswunt Rao Bhau the excesses in Holkar's districts have been more than usual. Holkar has repeatedly remonstrated and he now calls on Sindhia to seize Cheetoo. Sindiah in reply states the greater necessity of reducing

the other party which can be facilitated by Cheetoo's aid, and points out the policy of taking advantage of their mutual enmity. The aggression of Sindhiah's troops on Holkar's territory has far outbalanced Holkar's on that of Sindhiah. To the repeated complaints of that government this promises that a stop shall be put to the evil, but observes that there are equal grounds of complaint against Holkar which must be remedied at the same time. No arrangement however follows, and the confusion continues.

Baptiste has at length moved from camp. He is gone by Janshi to Chandery whence it is said that he will proceed to Bahaudergurh where his troops will assemble. The officers of this Government who command Brigades of infantry have been ordered to place detachments at his disposal. It may be considered likely that he will endeavour to secure the co-operation of Cheetoo. The primary object of his expedition is now publicly talked of as an attack on the Pindaries—of Kareem's party.

On the 4th instant a serious affray occurred during a large Mela at Ooojain, between two tribes of Fakeers, on which occasion a conflict took place and many lives were lost. A scene of great confusion arose, when a body of Cheetoo's adherents, who separated from him in his late flight, and had halted in neighbourhood of the city, took the opportunity of attacking and plundering the pilgrims. The Governor of Ooojin succeeded in seizing the chief of one of the contending parties a rich Gosawi of Kota, who was severely wounded and Sindhiah has ordered him to be heavily fined. The Pindaries went off with impunity.

Sindhia's Camp :
The 19th May 1814.

RICHARD STRACHEY,
Resident.

Letter No. 38.—The letter conveys the intentions of the Government to regulate its defensive measures against the Pindaries in the next cold weather. Mr. Jenkins is desired to ascertain if the Bhonsla would require the British assistance for the defence of his own territories.

FROM—J. ADAM, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, 20th May 1814.

You will have received from Mr. Elphinstone a copy of his dispatch No. 5, dated the 28th of April, reporting the substance of his communication to the vakeel of Holkar residing at Poona, in reply to the enquiries made by that person under orders from his court, relative to the views and objects of the British Government in preparing the subsidiary force for service in the field.

The Governor-General-in-Council concludes, that you will have availed yourself of that information, to confirm, the impression which may have already been made on the mind of the Rajah of Nagpur, by your declarations of the resolution of the British Government to regulate its defensive measures by its sense of its own interest and security and that of its allies, without any reference to those of the Rajah. It appears to His Excellency-in-Council that the knowledge of such a communication as that of Mr. Elphinstone to Holkar's vakeel, having been made to a power *** influenced, if not guided by Meer Khan in its political measures aided by such observations as would be offered by you, will more effectually impress the Rajah with a belief, that we are determined to withhold our assistance than any direct disclaimer of such intention addressed to himself.

...

It would be desirable to take this opportunity of intimating to the Rajah, that if he should not solicit our alliance, so early as to afford time for making the necessary arrangements for his protection and security before the opening of the season for military operations, he cannot expect our compliance with his application, which if delayed until the actual occurrence or proximity of the danger, would be attended with great inconvenience to the British Government, and perhaps involve it in hostilities, which under a more frank and open conduct on the part of the Rajah might be avoided. This language has already been suggested to you in the instructions of the 10th July but it might be advantageous to urge the point in connection with the communication which you are now desired to make to the Rajah.

The Governor-General-in-Council confidently hopes, that no long period will now elapse without such verification of the Rajah's real views with respect to an alliance with the British Government as shall enable His Excellency-in-Council to determine the precise objects and extent of such political and military arrangements, as it will become indispensable to adopt during the interval of repose afforded by the rainy season, with a view to enable us to meet the events which appear likely to arise in the ensuing cold weather.

In this expectation, His Excellency-in-Council has deferred for a time the communication of his final orders for the assembly of the troops at the several points from which he will eventually be required to act, but such confidential communications will be made without delay to the Government of Fort Saint George, and such previous arrangements and dispositions made, as shall enable the proper authorities to carry into effect without loss of time, such orders as His Excellency-in-Council may finally issue.

P. S.—A copy of the letter of this date to the Resident at Poona in reply to his dispatch No. 3 of the 28th ultimo is enclosed for your information.

Letter No. 39.—The intelligence contained in the enclosure reveals the union of the forces of Jean Baptiste with the Pindari leaders Dost Mohammed and Chitoo, for the purpose of attacking Bhopal.

FROM—J. WOUCHOPE, RESIDENT AT BANDA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Banda, 11th September 1814.

I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying intelligence from Dost Mohammed's camp.

Extract from a Paper of Intelligence from the Dhurra of Doast Mohammad near Bhilsah, dated the 3rd September 1814.

On the 28th of August messages were brought by a camel driver and a pair of Hircarrahs, successively, from Jean Baptiste, inviting Doast Mohammed to an interview and acquainting him that Cheetoo had already arrived in Baptiste's camp. On the 29th Doast Mohammed, attended by two thousand horse, set out to visit Jean Baptiste and was met at a distance of 2 or 3 coss by Mannoo Beg Captain, and Parussnath Seth Gomashtah, by whom he was conducted into Baptiste's camp. On the first day the usual ceremonies passed. On the next, Baptiste sent for Doast Mohammed and told him it was the order of Maharajah Dowlat Rao Sindiah that two thousand of his horse, composed of his finest men and horses, should be permanently attached to his (Baptiste's) army; that when opportunities offered for plunder in making new conquests they should receive no pay but so long as such opportunities did not exist they should receive a thousand rupees a day without fail. On any occasion of particular emergency Doast Mohammed was to join Baptiste with his whole force. Baptiste further said it was the wish of Dowlat Rao Sindiah that he should be cordially united with Cheetoo to whom a thousand rupees a day had also been assigned, and as soon as that union was well established, it was the Maharajah's intention to employ them on some important service.

Doast Mohummed agreed to this arrangement after which Cheetoo was sent for and Baptiste effected a friendly meeting between them. Doast Mohummed then presented Jean Baptiste two horses valued at two thousand rupees each. Doast Mohummed in the course of the interview having complained that Appa Khandurao had taken from him Bagrode and all his lands, and by his hostile conduct prevented him from making any distant and profitable excursions. Jean Baptiste answered that as soon as he had accomplished the Bhopal business he would not only recover his lands for him but other favours would be conferred on him by the Maharajah, provided he proved himself zealous in his cause. A written engagement was then formally executed by Doast Mahommud by which he agreed to furnish permanently two thousand of his best description of horse, and on emergency the whole

of his force, after which Khillats and presents were given to Dost Mahammed and six of his officers. Baptiste having proposed on the part of Sindiah to create Doast Mahammed a Nawab, the latter declined the honour at that time, saying he would not accept it until he had performed some service that should merit it.

Antajee Pandit a vakeel on the part of the Rajah of Berar arrived in Doast Mohammed's camp twenty days before the above transactions, with proposals that Doast Mohammed should accept provision from the Rajah. He represented to Doast Mohammed that his father Heera Pindara was an ancient servant of the Nagpur Government, for which he held Jageer of four lakhs of Rupees on condition of his directing his predatory excursion against such countries as the Nagpur Government pointed out. Doast Mohammed replied that his father had never more than five or six thousand Pindaries in his service, while he had fourteen or fifteen thousand horse, two Battalions and seven guns, but that if the Nagpur Government would grant him a Jageer of ten lakhs of Rupees, he would enter its service. On the 26th of August the Nagpur Vakeel sent Oodajee Naick accompanied by Aazam Koar and Baillee Koar to adjust the affair.

Jean Baptiste is encamped at the village of Dewas 9 coss East of Oujein with 9 Battalions of Infantry and 4000 horse, exclusive of 3000 horse and foot and 41 guns under Rajah Bahadur who had lately joined him. Jeswant Rao Bhao with 10000 horse and 20 guns is encamped at the village of Soontelah from whence he paid his respects to Jean Baptiste. Jettha Bhao Subhadar of Newar who had formerly revolted from Sindia came with 20,000 horse and foot and 40 guns to have an interview with Jean Baptiste on which occasion the latter treacherously seized him and sent him prisoner to Gwalior. Altogether the force assembled under Baptiste amounts to nearly a lakh of horse and foot and 113 guns and it is his intention first to attack Bhopal.

J WAUCHOPE.

Letter No 40.—The enclosure to the letter gives information about the preparedness of the Pindaris for their plundering raids, since the fair season had started.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—H. RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

Nagpur, 6th October 1816.

I have the honour to enclose for your information the translation of a paper of intelligence yesterday received from Hindia.

The same as the above to—

Colonel Doveton.

The Hon'ble M. Elphinstone.

Captain Close.

*Translation of an Akhbar from Hindia, dated the 26th
September 1816.*

The Nawab Seetoo is at his post of Nemawar. The elder Ranjan was at Sutwas, but on the eighteenth he came to Nemawar. Seetoo, Ranjan and the Jemadars of the Pindaras, and ten other of the principal people have met together and held counsel on the point of getting ready the expedition for plundering. The aforementioned Pindarrahs having completed the shoeing of their horses are ready. Namdar Khan Karim Shahee having come with fifty horsemen, and passing over the Nerbudda at the Chipaneer Ghat on Boats carried off a hundred head of cattle from the districts of Kothra and Chapeewaree Pergunnah, Seoni. A letter has arrived from Sindhia to Anna Sahib to this effect that they should go and oppose Mirza Roushan Beg. In consequence Anna Sahib has marched from Dhun Talao to Ujein. Roshan Beg with ten thousand troops and 40 guns had arrived at Noolae, and having plundered and sacked that place, which was under the Bhoos Kutiah, from thence he proceeded to Khachrod, where he has erected Batteries and demanded a contribution. Some Huzoorees of Sindhia's have come to Seetoo and said that Anna Sahib has gone with his forces to Ujjain; do you uniting to yourself the whole body of the Pindaries go and oppose Roshan Beg. The Nawab Seetoo gave no answer. Baptiste having made himself master of Raghoogarh, has left one Captain in that post, and gone with four Battalions to Kotta. Seetoo has received information that Sindhia also is coming to Kotta. Bhuroo Pandit Soubhedar has been removed from Hindia and gone towards Gwalior. That Soubeh has been conferred on Baba Sahib.

(A true translation)

R. JENKINS,
Resident.

Letter No. 41.—The enclosure is a paper of intelligence regarding the affairs of the Pindaries, their mutual wrangles and what new territories they mean to raid.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—G. STRACHEY, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT ST. GEORGE.

Nagpur, the 22nd October 1816.

I have the honour to forward for the information of the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council the enclosed translation from a paper of intelligence last night received from Hindia.

The same to the Chief Secretary at Bombay.

*Translation of an extract from a paper of intelligence,
dated Hindia 13th October*

Seetoo with his Pindaries is at Nemawar, and the elder Ranjan at Sutwas. Ten thousand horse belonging to Seetoo, ten thousand belonging to Karim, and seven thousand of the Holkar Shahee, in all 27 thousand Pindaries, have their horses shod and the Luhbur is ready. They were to have set out at the Dusserah, and reports prevailed that they were going either towards Surat or towards Jagannath but it is not certain to what quarter the Luhbur will proceed. The elder Ranjan levied contributions on two villages in the Jagir of Kadir Buksh of the Holkar Shahee division. A misunderstanding between the two Chiefs was the consequence. Kadir Buksh entertained twelve hundred Arabs to give battle to Ranjan who on his side summoned all his Pindaries to assemble. Seetoo on hearing this, exerted himself to reconcile the parties, but in consequence of their dispute the Luhbur was detained. A reconciliation has now been effected, and on the Parwa of the Deewali (21st October) having performed the usual ceremony of Poojah to the Nerbudda, the Luhbur will cross on boats, as the river is not yet fordable.

Sawat Khan the son of Karim Pindarraha hitherto resided at Kota. Toolsa Bai the wife of Holkar wrote to the Rajah of Kota to send Sawat Khan to her. The Rajah in consequence has dismissed Sawat Khan with a dress of honour in order to his departure to the Bai's Camp. He has made one march from Kota and has 2,000 troops with him. On the arrival of Sawat Khan the Bai intends to release Karim and to send him with a force of infantry and guns to Bhopal.

(A true translation)

R. JENKINS,
Resident at Nagpur

Letter No 42—The enclosure to this letter addressed to John Adam, Secretary to Government reports the measure the Pindaries think of taking against a possible attack on them, the attitude of the Sindhia in ordering his Commander in Malwa to break off all intercourse with the Pindaries, the Jai Singh Baptiste affair, and the depredations in the territories of Bhopal.

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO
SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Gwalior, the 17th November 1816.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of my dispatch of the 16th instant to Mr Adam.

Gwalior,
16th November 1816.

To—JOHN ADAM, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

SIR,

The approach of the British and Allied troops towards the Nerbudda appears to have excited considerable attention, not only amongst the Pindarees, but the Governments north of that river; the current belief is that an attack is designed upon those freebooters, and I am informed that they have now lodged their families and valuable property in Sutwass and are considering what other measures they should take to guard against the dangers which menace them.

2. The Chiefs are stated to be deliberating between the expediency of collecting their followers to make a stand against their enemies, or of detaching them across the Nerbudda so as to make a diversion of the allied troops by calling them off to the protection of their own territories; which of these plans will be adopted by them does not as yet appear certain, but it is evident that the precautions which have been taken for the defence of the Nagpur dominions have tended greatly to discourage if they should not ultimately prevent the usual inroads of the Pindarees into the Southern countries.

3. In the present emergency the Pindaree Chiefs have addressed themselves to Sindhia, but I have not yet satisfactorily learnt the purport either of their communications or of Sindhia's in reply. His Highness however from ordering his Commander in Malwa to break off all the intercourse with the Pindarees and to separate himself from them, would seem to intend leaving them to their fate and being himself a quiet spectator of any measures which may be pursued against them.

4. The Accounts which are received by this Durbar from Poona represent that Government being cordially engaged with us in framing arrangements for repressing the incursions of the Pindarees, and much importance is attached by the Maratha states in this quarter to the part thus taken by the Peshwa..... there is an affectation of regarding as the Chiefs.....in the preparations now on foot; mention has been made here of Sindhia's taking some part.....the Pindaries, but the design of this I apprehend only be to preserve some appearance of an.....to concur in the views of the British Government.

5. Exclusively of the transactions.....on the Nerbudda, the contest with Jai Singh.....Biptiste continues to make slow, but successful.....and the factions in the Ministry engross all.....attention in the Durbar at present, although the proceedings at Jodhpore are beginning to excite some

likewise. Bapoojee Sindhia and Meer Khan have marched towards that capital, but with the former to support the pretensions of Goolraj, the brother of the late Anand Raj Bukshee, supposed to have been murdered at Meer Khan's instigating and trying to maintain his ascendancy in the and promises in return for Bapoojee Sindhia's compliance to adjust all the pecuniary claims of the Government upon his master; and the latter to opposite faction formed of some of Raja relations who also engage to satisfy his demands upon the Government, if they succeed in getting the administration into their own hands

6 The two forces are near each other and frequent communications have passed between Meer Khan and Bapoojee Sindhia, sometimes in expostulating, but at other times in a more conciliating tone, so that it is yet very doubtful whether they will proceed to extremities. In the mean time a correspondence is carried on between the Jaipore Government and Goolraj, each urging the other to make an attack upon Meer Khan and his other commanders who continue to overrun and levy contributions on the Jaipore territories, but though the policy of a spontaneous attack is admitted by both parties, no one seems prepared to strike any important block.

7 Dowlat Rao Sindhia has been anxious to take advantage of the present divided state of Amir Khan's affairs and to use some endeavours for reducing his power by which the Jaipur Government would be secured from the necessity of resorting to others for protection, but no steps are yet taken for that purpose, nor does there at present seem to be any such design.

8. I had written thus for when I received intelligence which I have every reason to consider authentic, that the Pindaree Leaders Namdar Khan and Cheetoo, have required instructions from Dowlat Rao Sindhia how to act in their present critical situation, they profess their readiness to obey His Highness in every thing, and either to ravage the Nagpur territories or to abstain from crossing the Nerbudda as he may desire, in the mean time Cheetoo represents that he had recalled a part of his Dhurra which had passed the river, a circumstance which is confirmed by accounts received and transmitted to me, by the Resident at Nagpur

9 It appears suitable to the immediate views and interests of this Government to retain the Pindarees for the present in a state of inaction, and it is therefore probable that Dowlat Rao Sindhia will use what influence he possesses over them, to check rather than stimulate their proceedings, lest a repetition of their aggressions, should in the present state of things encourage the advance of the allied troops across the Nerbudda. At the same time it is likely that the danger of encouraging the Pindaree Leaders to rise in their vexatious demands upon His Highness may prevent his exerting his authority to restrain them in a decided manner.

10. The dominions of the Nawab of Bhopal have suffered much within these few months from plunder and devastation, and I have occasionally received from thence letters which appeared to indicate a desire to recur to the negotiations which were formerly broken off with that state. As I had no authority to correspond on that subject with the Nawab I have always referred him to Mr. Wauchope.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,

R. CLOSE,
Resident.

Letter No. 43.—The enclosure originally addressed to J. Adam, Secretary to Government refers to the contents of certain letters from Pindari Chiefs to Doulat Rao, and gives a few extracts from these letters to show how the Pindari Chiefs were pleading with the Sindhia for his protection against the intention of the English to destroy them. The attitude of the Sindhia is described as “dissuasive”.

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO
SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Gwalior, the 20th November 1816.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of my dispatch of this date to Mr. Adam.

Gwalior,
20th November 1816.

TO—JOHN ADAM, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy and translation of a letter received by Dowlat Rao Sindhia from Namdar Khan, besides copies of some other letters as they are noted in the margin. The following extracts from those last mentioned will convey to His Excellency the Governor-General all that they contain of any importance; the authenticity of Namdar Khan's letter scarcely admits of a doubt and as I obtained the rest from the same source although I have not had the same means of establishing their validity, I have reason to believe in the correctness of them also.

2 No 2 with nearly a repetition of the preceding letter goes on to say "It is well known to you what sort of advantage the Nagpur Rajah will reap from our devastations, and that the whole of the Deccannees will bear the blame. I request that Jeswant Rao Bhow may be directed to join us, and at a time of need you may also be put to some inconvenience, at present the service of the Sirkar is the first object, and observe with what devotion it shall be performed, but first let an answer be prepared such as fully us and be sent expeditiously, as give confidence, for a scene of trouble us Accounts shall be sent to you in quick succession of what passes in this quarter

3. No 3 after mentioning the approach of the English troops and those of the allies severally, to within 18 Coss of Setoo's position, and this vigilance and of the Ghats, continues thus "but what concerns me, is to find that our master is ready to assist in our destruction and has not consulted the advantage of his own dominions, all the Jemadars of the Pindarees in this quarter regard your Highness as their Sovereign and Master and having now consulted together they have disposed several letters to the presence and they will devote themselves to the execution of whatever orders may be issued in consequence. We are expecting your Highness's commands, but in default of them the six Dhurras will form six separate bodies and will ravage and destroy the country of the English. Of this be assured because we were satisfied with a small Jaidad and took no concern in the affairs of others, but in seasons of difficulty there is no choice."

4. No 4 after repeating that the British and the allies are advancing to attack the Pindarees, goes on as follows "I am ignorant whether all this is known to the presence, but let the Sirkar consider well, when we shall be no more how will the Nagpur man and the Peshwa Bahadur escape. We are now without remedy, let His Highness's commands be made known to us that we may obey them. Hitherto we have never disobeyed orders or acted treacherously towards the Sirkar We now request that some arrangements or negotiations may be entered into with the English and that they may be communicated to your servants, it will then be seen what our conduct will be likewise. One thing gives me uneasiness, the Pindarees are a lawless tribe and will lay every country waste, they regard your Highness as their refuge and protector and for that reason I earnestly represent that if there is any delay in an answer to this, your servants will be ruined, and the greater dispatch is used in sending us your commands the more it will be to our advantage."

5 No. 5 is written by Wausil Mohammed the brother of the late Dost Mohammad, who manages the affairs of the Durra for his nephew Muzhur Buksh (the son of Dost Mohammed) who is yet young After noticing the accounts he had received from Cheetoo that the allies were advancing for the expulsion of the

Pindarees, and that he had sent some horse to Cheetoo in compliance with his requisition, the rest of his followers being with Baptiste, he goes on thus "Your Highness had made some provision for us and had settled our affairs, but now disorder and confusion will prevail as before; the Pindarces are no longer under control they will now make no distinction of countries but will lay every place waste. Whatever your Highness's orders may now be, they shall be executed with the utmost zeal and attention,now in the six Durras near 50,000 horse awaiting an answer and the orders of the presence. My Vakeel is with your Highness and will explain matters further to you."

6. In answer to all this, all I have yet learnt is that His Highness has spoken to Namdar Khan's Vakeel in a dissuasive tone, but in such a manner that it would seem to be less his wish to restrain the Pindarces than to exculpate himself from the charge of encouraging them.

I have the honour to be.

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Sd.) R. CLOSE,

Resident.

Translation of a letter from Namdar Khan, dated 17th Zeehidge or the 8th of November to Dowlat Rao Sindhia.

Compliments omitted.

"From the writing of Nowab Mohammed Kamal Khan Bahadur, I have learnt the following news, that the Nagpur Army with the Regiments of the English are coming this way to attack us (speaking of the Pindarras collectively) and the troops of the Hyderabad Wallah also, accompanied by the English Regiments have marched from the Deccan. The said Nawab, Mohammed Kainat Khan, having drawn up all the boats of the river to his side and taken good care of them, is now ready for battle and the sowars of your slave I have sent to him and shall follow myself when necessary; and the Lubhur of Sowars, which had marched has been ordered to return. My humble representation now is that if orders are given me, I will engage the enemy or if I am desired I will march with a light force and lay waste and destroy their country. I have sent letters to the Nagpur Wallah, when the replies arrive I shall send another Arzee to the Presence. In the present conjuncture, we are considering how to dispose of our families. If Jeswant Rao Bhow or Meer Khan will take care of them, it is well; if not, we must see what else can be done. Our hopes are in your favour and exaltation, because you are our master, and we your servants are obedient to your commands. In this subject whatever advice or orders you may give, your slaves will carry into execution. The Arzee of the said Nowab (Cheetoo) will have reached the threshold of the Presence, and particular accounts of

that quarter will have been obtained from thence. What was necessary, is contained in this Arzee." And the usual concluding complimentary style.

(A true translation)

(Sd) R. CLOSE,
Resident.

Letter No 44.—The letter reports the movements of the Pindaries to eastwards thus evading the British detachments set on watch

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—HENFRY RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD

Nagpur, 20th November 1816.

You will have learnt by my late dispatches that not only the Pindaries of Wasil Mohammed's party who lately passed Major Fair, but the principal body of Sectoo's, Kureem's and the Holkar Shahee, in short the main body of the Pindaries, have moved to the Eastward. There is now nothing in this quarter to oppose their undertaking any expedition whether to Cuttack by Chattisgarh, the Northern Sirkars by the Wain Ganga and Godavery, or the Nizam's and Company's provinces to the Southward, by Nirmal. Colonel Walker's position is favourable for the interception of those returning by the Westward, but the Pindaries by taking the same Easterly road as at present may avoid his force altogether and Major Fair has no cavalry. Two Battalions of Infantry and two squadrons of Cavalry are indeed preparing in Bundelkhand to join Colonel Walker, and they will hereafter be disposable for the protection of the Eastern roads, but the period at which they may arrive is uncertain. As therefore no large body of Pindaries now remains to go down by Burhanpur it occurs to me to suggest for your consideration whether a light detachment or the whole of the light troops might not be advantageously, thrown out from Colonel Doveton's force towards the Wardha, where they might perhaps arrive in time to prevent the Pindaries from attempting the Nirmal route in their course Southward or at any rate be ready to intercept them on their return through this country and not be less disposable eventually to meet them on a more Westerly track.

Letter No 45.—The enclosures to this letter are important and throw light on the disposition of the Sindhus and Peshwas towards the Pindaries.

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOULAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Gwalior, 24th November 1816.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information a copy of my dispatch of yesterday's date to Mr Adam.

TO—JOHN ADAM, ESQUIRE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

Gwalior,

November 23rd, 1816.

SIR,

Since the dispatch of my letter to you of the 20th instant I have received the accompanying enclosures of which I also send translations. Even supposing the two first to have been penned with a view that I should gain information of their contents, the three letters together, combined with the common language held at this place, appear to me to give a true and correct insight into His Highness's feelings regarding the Pindaries and the opposition which has now commenced against them. There can be no question of the Persian letter having issued from the Munshi's office the latest one was seen with His Highness's seal affixed to it and the similarity of expressions that seem through them both, shows clearly that they were written by the same person. As to what is said in the answer to Namdar Khan of Cheetoo's letters not having been replied to, I can only explain it by imputing it either to delay in writing the answer after Sindhia had dictated the terms of it, or to a design to mislead.

The Marhatta letter is from a different office and although the mention made of the Peshwa in the Persian letters might seem intended to some distrust between us and His Highness, the manner in which he is taken notice of in.....a more serious meaning.....the knowledge I have obtained.....what was before strongly suspected of namely that Trimbakjee when in power maintained a correspondence between the Government of Poona and the Pindarees, there seems little reason to doubt that His Highness did at that time take some interest in them.

Sindhia I understand received information two or three days ago of the result of Col. Walker's late.....upon a party of the Pindarees beyond the Nerbudda.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Sd.) R. CLOSE,
Resident.

Translation of a Persian letter from Dowlat Rao Sindhia to Cheetoo, dated the 26th of Zeehidge, or the 17th November 1816.

Your letter mentioning the approach of the English together with the troops of His Highness the Peshwa and those from Hyderabad and Nagpur, and likewise you being prepared to oppose them, has reached the Presence and the whole subject has been understood.

The case is this, on several occasions letters upon this subject were formerly dispatched to you from hence, and Colonel Jean Baptiste likewise obtained from you the most solemn engagements which he transmitted in writing to the presence. At the same time he strictly enjoined you not to molest the country of any one, but nevertheless your Horse were not restrained. At present the force of His Highness the Peshwa too is withheld from you and above all the strictest friendship subsists between the Hon'ble Company and the Presence, all which must already be known to you. It is therefore written that you have now no concern with the Presence and that you are at full liberty to do whatever you please. It is thus clearly written for your information. What more need be said.

(A true translation)

R. CLOSE,
Resident.

Translation of a Persian letter from Dowlat Rao Sindhia to Namdar Khan, dated the 1st of Moharram 1232 Hizee, or the 21st of November 1816

The Arzees sent by you have successfully reached the presence and their contents have been understood. As to what you have written concerning the approach of the English Army and your waiting the orders of the Peshwa—the case is this, why did you, notwithstanding your having obtained a Jaidad from the Huzzoor and your having given the solemn written engagements through Colonel Jean Baptiste, send your Lubbur into the country of the English and carry from thence. Did you not know that strongly I was united in friendship with the English and His Highness the Peshwa that the Peshwa is no longer disposed you his countenance, however you are saved. It is therefore written that you may now do whatever you think proper. The Presence has absolutely no concern.

The arzee which your Vakeel reported as having been sent by Mohammed Kamal Khan, has not yet arrived. When it does, a full answer shall be returned. From it you may learn further position.

What more need be written.

(A true translation)

R. CLOSE,
Resident.

Letter No. 46.—The letter conveys useful information about the whereabouts and dispositions of the Pindari leaders Chitoo and Runjan, Jaswant Rao Bhao, and Jean Baptiste towards one another.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COL. DOVETON, COMMANDING HYDERABAD
SUBSIDIARY FORCE.

Nagpur, the 29th November 1814.

By a letter from my newswriter in Seetoo's camp, dated the 18th instant, it appears that Seetoo and Burra Runjhun had rejoined the camp of Jeshwunt Rao Bhao at Pundah, within a short march of Bhopaul, against which place it was expected operations would have immediately commenced. The Bhao however suddenly broke up his camp and moved to Sheoor about six coss further off to the westward and he was followed by Baptiste. The Bhao refuses to join in the attack of Bhopaul without an express order from Sindia, to whom both parties are stated to have written. The two armies are encamped within gunshot of each other, in the attitude of enemies rather than of servants of the same master.

Seetoo was with the Bhao and also some of Kureem's party attached to the Nabab of Bhopal. Dost Mohommed was with Baptiste.

[The same as the above to the Residents at Hyderabad, Poona, and with Sindia, to Captain Sydenham and Wouchope, Esquire.]

P.S.—By a letter of the 20th from the same newswriter I learn that a battle had taken place between Baptiste and Jeswant Rao Bhao, who lost his guns and fled to Bhopal.

Letter No. 47.—The letter gives information about the irruptions of the Pindaries and the whereabouts of some of the bands.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—G. STRACHEY, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT ST. GEORGE.

Nagpur, 30th November 1816.

The body of Pindaries who passed the right Brigade at Garurwara on the 12th instant have not yet been distinctly traced. They plundered for some time in the district of Mandla to the South east of Garurwara and although there are reports of Pindaries having passed, far to the Eastward of Nagpur, in a southerly course towards Chanda, the reports are vague and the numbers unknown.

Another body, of which the number has not been ascertained seems to have lately appeared on the Jubbulpore road. I have also heard of a body today estimated at 2,000 in a district about 70 miles North of Nagpur.

By accounts received today from Seetoo's camp, it appears that very few Pindaries remained to guard the families of his and Karim's divisions, at Sutwas; and my last accounts report the same thing regarding Wasil Mohammed's contonment near Bhilaa.

[The same to F. Warden, Esquire, J. Adam, Esquire, Residents at Hyderabad, Poona, Sindhia's Camp and Colonel Doveton.]

Letter No. 48.—The letter gives accounts of the movements of a body of Pindaries near Nagpur, their pursuit by the British troops and their flight towards Chanda.

FROM—R. JENKINS, ESQUIRE, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—G. STRACHEY, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, FORT ST. GEORGE.

Nagpur, 8th December 1816.

In my letter of the 5th instant I had the honour to mention that a large body of Pindaries had been heard of at Kubi about 20 miles southeast from Nagpur. Lieutenant Col. Scott moved against this body early on the morning of the 4th, with a light detachment composed of the four flank companies of the Brigade made up to 100 men each, followed by a gun and a Picquet of 150 men, and also joined by 2 light Companies of His Highness the Nizam's Regular Infantry under Major Fraser. The Pindaries had moved off from Kubi on the night of the 3rd and were pursued to Umrer a place about 27 miles south from Nagpur, near which they were halting during the 4th. It was useless to attack them in the day-light and the detachment remained quiet until sun-set when it moved out from Umrer, but the Pindaries had decamped about the same time. Lieutenant Colonel Scott pursued them for a considerable distance that night, not giving up the pursuit until the detachment had marched altogether about 52 miles, which it did in 21 hours. The Pindaries continued their route to the Southward, and by the direction they were taking it would appear they were going either towards Nirmal or into Berar. Lieutenant Colonel Scott returned on the night of the 6th.

[The same to F. Warden, Esquire, Residents at Hyderabad, Poona and with Sindhia and to Colonel Doveton.]

P.S.—I have just heard a report brought by the runners of the Nirmal Dawke, that the Pindaris have taken the road to Chanda.

Letter No. 49.—The enclosure to the letter addressed originally to John Adam, Secretary to Government reports in detail the discussion between the Resident and Atmaram Pandit on behalf of the Sindhia regarding the question of dealing with the Pindaris. The Resident also makes certain observations regarding the lack of enthusiasm, or activity on the part of the Sindhia to co-operate with the English in the designs against the Pindaris.

FROM: R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO: R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Gwalior, 13th December 1816.

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of my dispatch of the 12th instant to Mr. Adam.

TO: JOHN ADAM, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

Gwalior,

December 12th 1816.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit to you for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council the following report of a conversation which passed between me and Atmaram Pandit yesterday evening.

2. He came to me he said by Dowlat Rao Sindhia's desire to acquaint me that His Highness had lately been informed by some of the Pindaree Chiefs of the measures which had been unanimously taken by the States to the Southward for the purpose of attacking them; that if lands as they said or a place to abide in were assigned to them, they would of course abstain from doing any injury to others but that without either, they had no choice left to them; that they had stated an intention of sending a person to Sindhia to negotiate this matter, and that as His Highness wished to take no steps in it without consulting me he wished to know my opinion of what he ought now to do. It was obscurely hinted that the Pindarees had in their communication to Sindhia, alluded to His Highness's concerting some arrangement for them with the British Government, but of this I took no notice and the circumstance was not repeated.

3. I observed to Atmaram that after what I had already said to him in several of our conversations upon this subject, it did not occur to me that I could add any thing of the least consequence; now that I had pointed out what seemed to be the only useful course which His Highness could pursue, but after that, it was for him to judge.....part that he ought to take; that it was

no less than that of every other state, I therefore take some steps for chastising those plunderers and that if His Highness were to adopt means for that purpose, so far from to it every one would no doubt be Atmaram then mentioned the plan so dwelt upon here, of getting the Pindarees by some means or other and crushing at once, he likewise said that it had to Sindhia as a politic measure to Pindaree leaders to retain about them those who really were Pindarees, whose numbers might not exceed 2,000 or 3,000 and them to discard from them entirely, the numerous bodies of plunderers of all description which they usually permitted to unite with them. On this I asked him who the real Pindarees were and how their numbers had much increased I dissented from his that they were altogether a distinct race of people, neither Mussalmans nor Hindus and I asked him in that case what they were, he remarked that there had from first been two separate classes the Sindhiaashahee and Holkar Shahee, but he made no reply to a question I put where they would have been or how they could have existed at all if neither Sindhia nor Holkar had given them employment. He observed in the progress of events, though their numbers were at first small, they had greatly augmented and that much of this was to be attributed to the Government of Bhopal which always gave them great encouragement. I asked him in what manner saying that I did not know of the Nawab's having assigned them lands although situated as he was amongst more powerful states which every now and then threatened his destruction, there was every excuse for his obtaining assistance in any way that he could.

4. I enquired of Atmaram during our conversation what was the Maharajah's object in thus referring to me knowing as I supposed he already did, the opinions which I had formerly stated, to this he replied that His Highness was informed of all I had before said, but that now as the Pindarees were directly opposed to the Bhonsla on the Nerbudda, he did not know but a bad construction might be put on his sanctioning under the present state of circumstances the mission of an agent from them to this Camp.

5. This was all that passed worthy of being communicated except that when I remarked that His Highness would meet with no interruption from any one in any efforts he might make to reduce the Pindarees, although only one method occurred to me as I had before observed likely to prove of permanent advantage. Atmaram paused as if expecting that I was coming forward with some distinct proposal, and when I went on to say that the only way seemed to be for His Highness to ask the aid of those who were able, and might be found willing to give it, he said he understood me perfectly and repeated what I had formerly said on the subject. After this he talked a good deal of public events which had occurred with respect to the Pindarees within the last 12 or

13 years, such as their being surrounded on two or three occasions by Sindhia's troops, the seizure and subsequent release of the Chiefs, but without noticing the condition of their release; the fruitless expedition of Juggoo Bapoo against them, and some other,which I listened in silence. He also.....the Pindarees in their present difficulties and applied to Baptiste to grant an assylum to their families but that he had refused to listen to them as he could not act without His Highness's orders. He added that although the Pindarees were at one time servants of this Government and His Highness had assigned them some lands for their support, they had for some time past ceased to be so. That they had become too powerful to pay obedience to any one and that this was a great degree owing to Serjee Rao Chatgay, who when the Maharaja was at Saugor had dignified some of their leaders by titles and had otherwise treated them with so much distinction that they afterwards became unruly and presumptuous and in a manner threw of all dependance on the Maharaja. He said.....now laid the town of Nemawar in ruins and this he affected to consider a great outrage against this Government, but it is already known to His Lordship that Cheetoo burnt his Cantonments there because he thought the place was too near our troops to be occupied any longer with safety.

6. Imagining that Sindhia's desire in making this communication to me, was to discover with what temper the subject of the Pindarees would be discussed as to learn something from which he might infer what were our ultimate intentions regarding either them or himself. I thought it proper to avoid using any expression which should raise a suspicion of our entertaining designs unfavourable to him without however varying my language from that which I had formerly used, an inconsistency should have appeared in my general conduct. It is possible that His Highness may have wished to procure our concurrence or even participation in an amicable settlement with the Pindarees, although it would be absurd to suppose him to be sincere in the delicacy which he was said to feel about receiving an agent from them, but if such were his design, yet as it was not distinctly explained I thought it better to take no notice of that question, and my neglecting to do so cannot I should hope have been misunderstood. Sindhia's principal object may after all have been merely to exculpate himself as much of Atmaram's conversation appeared to have that tendency.

7. Why His Highness should be so averse to asking our aid while he professes to concur in the general desire to curb the Pindarees, is a doubtful question, especially if it is true that he is willing to come forward as an auxiliary though not as a Principal. It appears however to be reconcileable with the usual policy of the Marhattas to suppose that if his assistance were required he would conceive that he had the power to annex his own conditions to granting it. He would doubtless require funds to support his

no less than that of every other state, I therefore take some steps for chastising those plunderers and that if His Highness were to adopt means for that purpose, so far from to it every one would no doubt be Atmaram then mentioned the plan so dwelt upon here, of getting the Pindarees by some means or other and crushing at once, he likewise said that it had to Sindhia as a politic measure to Pindaree leaders to retain about them those who really were Pindarees, whose numbers might not exceed 2000 or 3000 and them to discard from them entirely, the numerous bodies of plunderers of all description which they usually permitted to unite with them. On this I asked him who the real Pindarees were and how their numbers had much increased I dissented from his that they were altogether a distinct race of people, neither Mussalmans nor Hindus and I asked him in that case what they were, he remarked that there had from first been two separate classes the Sindhiaashahee and Holkar Shahee, but he made no reply to a question I put where they would have been or how they could have existed at all, if neither Sindhia nor Holkar had given them employment. He observed in the progress of events, though their numbers were at first small, they had greatly augmented and that much of this was to be attributed to the Government of Bhopal which always gave them great encouragement. I asked him in what manner saying that I did not know of the Nawab's having assigned them lands, although situated as he was amongst more powerful states which every now and then threatened his destruction, there was every excuse for his obtaining assistance in any way that he could.

4. I enquired of Atmaram during our conversation what was the Maharajh's object in thus referring to me knowing as I supposed he already did, the opinions which I had formerly stated, to this he replied that His Highness was informed of all I had before said, but that now as the Pindarees were directly opposed to the Bhonsla on the Nerbudda, he did not know but a bad construction might be put on his sanctioning under the present state of circumstances the mission of an agent from them to this Camp.

5 This was all that passed worthy of being communicated except that when I remarked that His Highness would meet with no interruption from any one in any efforts he might make to reduce the Pindarees, although only one method occurred to me as I had before observed likely to prove of permanent advantage. Atmaram paused as if expecting that I was coming forward with some distinct proposal, and when I went on to say that the only way seemed to be for His Highness to ask the aid of those who were able, and might be found willing to give it, he said he understood me perfectly and repeated what I had formerly said on the subject. After this he talked a good deal of public events which had occurred with respect to the Pindarees within the last 12 or

13 years, such as their being surrounded on two or three occasions by Sindhia's troops, the seizure and subsequent release of the Chiefs, but without noticing the condition of their release; the fruitless expedition of Juggoo Bapoo against them, and some other,which I listened in silence. He also.....the Pindarees in their present difficulties and applied to Baptiste to grant an assylum to their families but that he had refused to listen to them as he could not act without His Highness's orders. He added that although the Pindarees were at one time servants of this Government and His Highness had assigned them some lands for their support, they had for some time past ceased to be so. That they had become too powerful to pay obedience to any one and that this was a great degree owing to Serjee Rao Ghatgay, who when the Maharaja was at Saugor had dignified some of their leaders by titles and had otherwise treated them with so much distinction that they afterwards became unruly and presumptuous and in a manner threw of all dependance on the Maharaja. He said.....now laid the town of Nemawar in ruins and this he affected to consider a great outrage against this Government, but it is already known to His Lordship that Chectoo burnt his Cantonments there because he thought the place was too near our troops to be occupied any longer with safety.

6. Imagining that Sindhia's desire in making this communication to me, was to discover with what temper the subject of the Pindarees would be discussed as to learn something from which he might infer what were our ultimate intentions regarding either them or himself. I thought it proper to avoid using any expression which should raise a suspicion of our entertaining designs unfavourable to him without however varying my language from that which I had formerly used, an inconsistency should have appeared in my general conduct. It is possible that His Highness may have wished to procure our concurrence or even participation in an amicable settlement with the Pindarees, although it would be absurd to suppose him to be sincere in the delicacy which he was said to feel about receiving an agent from them, but if such were his design, yet as it was not distinctly explained I thought it better to take no notice of that question, and my neglecting to do so cannot I should hope have been misunderstood. Sindhia's principal object may after all have been merely to exculpate himself as much of Atmaram's conversation appeared to have that tendency.

7. Why His Highness should be so averse to asking our aid while he professes to concur in the general desire to curb the Pindarees, is a doubtful question, especially if it is true that he is willing to come forward as an auxiliary though not as a Principal. It appears however to be reconcilable with the usual policy of the Marhattas to suppose that if his assistance were required he would conceive that he had the power to annex his own conditions to granting it. He would doubtless require funds to support his

contingent of troops and he might thus hope to reap at least some advantages from a revolution in the general state of affairs which however he might deprecate he saw to be unavoidable. It is also to be borne in mind that as the extinction of the Pindarees is looked upon as so dangerous to the interests of the Marhattas, Sindhia cannot desire to hasten it by any voluntary act of his own.

8. The mention which was made of Bhopal and the manner in which it was noticed, was probably not without.....I do not imagine that Sindhia has any views upon that state at present, but he may perhaps have supposed that His Lordship had as a Vakeel to the Nowab is now, if I am correctly informed in Colonel Walker's Camp, and His Highness have had it in view either to prejudice.....against the Nowab, or to discover whether he could safely renew his former designs against him.

9. I have reason to think that the intention imputed to the Pindarees of securing a person of consequence amongst them to negotiate with His Highness was used by Atmāram Pandit. only as a pretence to introduce the subject to his discourse and to observe how such a proceeding would be regarded. Sindhia's own wishes may perhaps be collected from the common language of the Durbar, where it is said that the Pindarees will never be subdued by the measures now pursued against them by.....this accords with what has been said by Atmaram Pandit on the present as well as on former occasions and may signify more perhaps than that His Highness would wish us to follow the same fruitless and unavailing course that he has hitherto pursued himself.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

R. CLOSE,

Resident.

Letter No. 50.—The letter and the two enclosures report the depredations of the Pindaris round about Bombay.

FROM—F. WARDEN, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, BOMBAY.

To—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Bombay Castle, 30th December 1816.

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council to transmit for your information the accompanying copy of a letter from the Magistrate at Carranjah, dated the 27th of this month, reporting that a number of persons from the Marhatta shore have sought protection in Karanja from a body of Pindarees who are plundering the neighbouring Districts.

To—FRANCIS WARDEN, ESQUIRE, CHIEF SECRETARY
TO GOVERNMENT, BOMBAY.

Sir,

I have the honour to acquaint you for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council that a large body of Mahrattas with their families, from the adjoining Districts have this morning flocked to this Island to seek protection from the Pindaries. They state that a great body of the latter are plundering the neighbouring Districts of Nagotnah, Apta and Pen committing every devastation in the villages.

2. I have in conjunction with Lieutenant Mander adopted every precautionary measure for their.....should they cross the river whichfacility with which this can be effected (the river being fordable at low water) it is not improbable they might attempt.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Caranjah :

S. MARRIOLL,

The 27th December 1816.

Magistrate.

To—FRANCIS WARDEN, ESQUIRE, CHIEF SECRETARY
TO GOVERNMENT, BOMBAY.

Sir,

Referring to my communication of the 27th Instant, I beg that you will acquaint the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, that I have received information of the Pindarries having left the adjoining Mahratta Districts, and that they have proceeded in a northerly direction probably with the intention of plundering the Country below the Chauts as far as our northern Territories.

2. From the deserted state of the Mahratta Villages, I am sorry I cannot at present afford more information but I shall lose no time in forwarding further intelligence when I am able to obtain such as may be of sufficient importance to communicate.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Caranjah :

S. MARRIOLL,

The 30th December 1816.

Magistrate.

Letter No. 51.—The letter reports the details of an encounter with the Pindaries in the Northern Sircars, and the losses suffered by them.

FROM—MAJOR GENERAL C. R. RUMLEY, WALTAIR.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Waltair, 7th January 1817.

Conceiving that any account of the defeat and losses sustained by the Pindaries in this division of the army would be acceptable to you, I do myself the honour of acquainting you with the following particulars:—

A considerable body of Pindaries supposed to amount to between 5 to 6,000, suddenly made its appearance near Goonaporam, on the 18th ultimo, and on the following evening entered the town of Kinredy having surrounded and closely pressed for several hours, a company of Sepoys, posted 12 coss in advance, which notwithstanding effected a safe retreat. The Pindaries met with great opposition from Major Oliver's detachment, who skirmished with them for two hours in the streets of the town during which many Pindaries, and horses, were killed, and wounded. The troops who did not amount to more than 120 men, found it impossible to prevent the town from being partly burnt, and they accordingly took post, until the arrival of two other companies from the out-posts. The whole body of Pindaries having encamped soon after, about a mile from the town, Major Oliver determined on a night-attack, which most completely succeeded. He moved on with only half his force, and actually got into the midst of them, before he was discovered, when he instantly gave them to vollies, within the short distance of ten yards, when they dispersed in all directions, leaving most of their heavy baggage on the ground. A large party, in their flight, passed close to a company posted on the bank of a tank, who gave them another volley.

Their loss in these affairs, was upwards of 30 Pindarras killed, and about 240 horses killed, and taken.

They hovered about on the following morning (the 20th) and then moved off in the direction of Ganjam, pursued by Major Oliver for many miles, but without further success.

From some prisoners who were taken, it appears their leader's name is either Rumjaun, or Suban Khan, and their destination was Juggernaut, and the Cuttack province.

This same body plundered, and burnt Itchapore on the 23rd, and on the following day, rode round the village and cantonment of Berhampore, but on receiving the fire three times, of small guard of sepoy, they again dispersed towards Ganjam, which town they plundered on the 25th, but were prevented from firing it, by the arrival of a detachment under Major Monin.

On the night of the 27th Lieut.....only 50 men from the 2nd battalion regiment.....in completely surprizing their principal body 1,600 should be the most efficient, and best.....accompanied by of nearly.....that number. Their flight was general precipitate, leaving on the ground, 20 men 20 horses unconsiderable quantity of arms of various discriptions some baggage. In this attack Gholam Cawdor a chief of a Korsand, was killed, and his elphant and standard from the report of some wounded prisoners, who were.....the next day, it has been known that they buried and.....during the retreat 30 bodies, and that a considerable.....moxe were wounded.

After this defeat they seemed inclined to through the Gooverur country, to the Mahratha frontier however probobly heard there were several small parties between them, and the Cuttack province. In this attempt they have been partly disappointed. Lieut Borthuick continuing to persue, and harass them, but was several times when they formed on the plain obliged to take pose council his deparily of remembers. Having been reinforced on the 29th.....he again succeeded the same might in surprizing them by a double attack. They were thrown into the utmost confusion and again lost several men and horses, nineteen of them were taken, and a considerable number.....might have been secured could Lieut.....have sparred men, for the purpose.

I believe many of the party succeeded in forcing.....through Goomsur towards the Wishiru frontier but the quiater part were compelled to retire in an easterly direction and I entertain great hopes, that they will be fallen with by other detachments who were moving towards that quarter.

I have only heard of one sepoy being wounded in all these affairs.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

C. R. RUMLEY.

Waltair :

January 7th, 1817.

Letter No. 52.—The letter conveys information as to how the Pindaries were dealt with when they attempted crossing of the Nerbudda.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—H. RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

Nagpur, 7th February 1817.

By my last accounts from Colonel Walker, dated the 3rd instant, it appears that the Pindarries who lately passed up through Berar, reached the vicinity of the Nerbudda on the 31st ultimo, but finding the fords occupied they dispersed in various directions

through the thick forest which covers most of the country to the south of Hindia. A considerable body succeeded in crossing by a ford west of Hindia not known to be passable; others had attempted to cross at the fords occupied by our troops and been beat back with loss, and the Patrols of cavalry which had been sent out in different directions by Colonel Walker, as the only means of gaining intelligence in the Jungles had succeeded in destroying some small parties and were still picking them up. By our posts and patrols 29 Pindarries had been killed and 79 horses taken, up to the 3rd. Many Pindarries whose horses were knocked up in the consternation caused by learning the occupation of the fords, abandoned their horses, in the hope of escaping on foot. Colonel Walker had received information of 114 horses having been taken into different villages, and many more were said to be running loose. The Gonds who inhabit the islands and banks of the river encouraged by the presence of our troops had also killed some of the Pindarries and taken a considerable number of their horses.

The body of Pindarries from Ganjam, after the action of the 24th had separated into several divisions. The greater part of them effected their escape to Saugor. They however besides the loss they sustained from Major Clarke, lost several horses and much baggage in their retreat from the attacks of the Zeminders both in the Rajah's territories and the Saugor district.

The Pindarry prisoners state their leader Rumzan Khan to have been killed in the Ganjam district as well as another leader whose name is not ascertained.

The same to Poona, Sindia's camp. Captain Sydenham, Madras, Bombay and General Rumby.

MISCELLANEOUS

Letter No. 1.—The letter and the enclosures pertain to the Kalinjar affair. The fort and its adjacent lands had been granted to one Chaubey Dariao Singh on condition of loyalty and submission which he had broken. Hence an army had been sent against him charged with the duty of turning him out by force after the fort was taken.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, the 4th February 1812.

You are of course apprized of a considerable British force being assembled in Bundelkhand for the purpose of undertaking the siege of the fortress of Kalinger. The Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council deeming it proper that with a view to enable you to answer any enquiries or to counteract any erroneous reports on that subject, you should be apprized of the circumstances which have compelled the British Government to dispossess the Killadar of that fort and the lands granted to him, I am directed to transmit to you for your information the enclosed copy of a manifesto prepared under the orders of the Governor-General in Council addressed to the principal chiefs in the province which will put you in possession of the main facts of the case and suffice for the purpose above described.

Manifesto addressed to all the Chiefs of Bundelkhand and others.

It is well known to all the Chiefs of Bundelkhand, that when the officers of the British Government were employed in settling the Province Dariao Singh Choubey the Killadar of the fortress of Kalinger, professing his allegiance and obedience to the British Government solicited to be received among the number of its servants and dependants and to be permitted to retain in his hand the Killadari of the fortress and the lands adjacent to it, and that the British Government notwithstanding the circumstances of his holding possession of the fort and lands through the usurpation of

his predecessors who were merely servants of the family of the ancient Rajah's of Bundelkhand, acceded to his solicitation and conferred on him the Killadari of Kalinger with sunnud for the adjacent lands under a specific engagement in which he acknowledged as the condition of the grant, his maintaining a conduct consistent with the obligations of duty, allegiance and submission, to the British Government according to the tenor of the articles of that engagement.

The Killedar however regardless of these obligations having in various specific instances as well as by the general tenor of his conduct, violated both the spirit and letter of his engagements and thus broken his faith with the British Government has forfeited his title to the possessions which he holds under the sunnud of the British Government as will be manifest by the following brief statement of facts.

A person of the name of Dalganjan Singh, uncle of a minor Zamindar in the district of Allahabad, having committed numerous acts of depredation and outrage within his nephew's Zamindary and in the contiguous district of Mirzapore, it became necessary to employ a Military force to pursue him into the neighbouring districts of Burdee where Dalganjan Singh obtained protection and whence he derived the means of prosecuting his predatory in roads. A leader of Pindaries by name Badal Khan whose residence was principally in the fort of Kalinger and who together with his family was under the avowed protection of the Killedar, was leagued with the marauder Dalganjan Singh and having in one of his incursions carried off from the company's provinces, about 70 heads of cattle, he was intercepted in his retreat by the people of the Rajah of Rewah. They succeeded in wresting from him the cattle which he had siezed and which by the orders of the Rajah were delivered up to the Commanding Officer in the district of Allahabad. In revenge for this act, Badal Khan seized the son of a Sharaf, a subject and servant of the Rajah and carried him off to the fort of Kalinger where the boy was detained and Badal Khan protected.

It is proper to state in this place, that by thus aiding and abetting a person who had united with a rebel in plundering the Company's territory and affording him protection, within the fort, the Killedar not only acted in opposition to his duty as a servant and dependant of the British Government but violated a specific article of his engagement by which he bound himself "never to aid and abet the internal or external enemies of the Honourable Company in Bundelkhand nor to harbour or give refuge to such persons in the fort of Kalinger or its environs nor in any of the villages subject to his authority; nor to permit the families or children of such persons to reside in any part of his possessions and to abstain from all correspondence and intercourse with them."

The Raja of Rewah solicited the interference of the Governor-General's agent in Bundelkhand to recover the person of the boy whom Badal Khan had carried off. The boy having been seized in consequence of the co-operation of the Rajah's people with the British Troops, the Agent deemed it incumbent upon him to demand from the Killadar, the restoration of the boy and at the same time under the engagements contracted by the Killadar, to require the surrender of Badal Khan in order that his conduct as a partizan of the rebel Dalganjan Singh might undergo investigation.

The Agent accordingly conveyed these demands by letter to the Killadar of Kalinger who however evaded a compliance with either and aggravated this evasion by declarations and demeanor highly disrespectful towards the British Government. The Killadar however was finally induced after repeated requisitions on the part of the agent for the surrender of the boy and of Badal Khan to dispatch Vakeels to Banda for the purpose of communicating on these points with the Governor-General's Agent.

The vakeels after some discussion entered into a written engagement for the restoration of the boy within a specified time, but declared, that they were not authorized to engage for the surrender of Badal Khan. The Agent accepted this engagement but distinctly signified to the Vakeel at the same time, that he should not relinquish the demand for the surrender of Badal Khan and accordingly after the boy had been delivered up, the Agent repeatedly renewed the demand for the surrender of Badal Khan in letters to the Killadar who however persevered in his determination to withhold a compliance with that demand, although he admitted both the fact of Badal Khan's connection with the rebel Dalganjan Singh and his being under the Killadar's protection and with peculiar effrontery he even demanded exertion of the agent's influence with the Rajah of Rewa to obtain from him payment of the wages said to be due to Badal Khan by Dalganjan Singh in consequence of the Rajah's people having seized the cattle which, as the Killadar alleged, had been made over to Badal Khan by Dalganjan Singh in discharge of those wages, thus insolently claiming the aid of the British Government to recover in favour of Badal Khan the reward of his co-operation with a rebel in plundering the Company's territory, and this too in reply to a requisition on the part of the British Government for the surrender of Badal Khan on account of that co-operation. But the contumacy of the Killadar was not limited to these acts of disobedience and violation of engagements. The Governor-General's Agent deeming it proper that a news-writer should be established in the vicinity of the fortress of Kalinger in the same manner as news-writers are stationed with the principal Bundela Chiefs, despatched a person accordingly with Hircarrahs and a letter announcing his appointment to the Killadar. On the news-writer's arrival in the town at the bottom of the fort, a relation

of the Killadar's assigned him a place of residence but the Killadar immediately ordered him away in terms grossly insulting to the British Government, threatened and maltreated the Hircarrahs who were dispatched to him with a message by the news-writer and compelled them to quit the limit of the Jagir and return to Banda. The circumstances of this transaction being peculiarly demonstrative of the contumacy of refractory spirit of the Killadar it is deemed proper to annex to this Manifesto copies of the narratives of the news-writer and of the Hircarrahs taken on oath for general information. Independantly of all those circumstances also there is the strongest reason to believe that Daryao Singh Choubey has been in the habit of secretly encouraging and abetting the predatory incursions of the Marauder Gopal Singh.

Daryao Singh Chobey having thus departed from the obligations of that alliance and submission which he solemnly engaged to maintain, having violated both the spirit and the letter of the conditions under which he received from the British Government a sunnud for the Killadaree of Kalinger and the lands annexed to it, and having by language and by acts grossly insulted the British Government, he has forfeited all claims to the continuance of the grant and has imposed upon Government the absolute necessity of resuming it and it is resumed accordingly.

This statement of facts is promulgated with a view to show that while on the one hand the British Government will ever scrupulously fulfil the obligations of its engagements with all the chiefs of Bundelkhand so long as they shall faithfully adhere to the agreements which they have respectively contracted, on the other hand it will never permit to pass with impunity, a violation of those engagements on the part of others.

When the British Government resolved to permit Daryao Singh Choubey to continue in possession of the fortress of Kalinger, granted him a sunnud for the Killadaree of that fortress, and the lands adjacent and entered into engagements with him, it relinquished all desire and expectation of establishing its own Garrison in the place at any future period of time. So long indeed as Daryao Singh Choubey fulfilled the duties of fidelity and allegiance according to the tenor of his engagement, the advantage which the British Government would have derived from its occupation of the fortress, was essentially obtained. The British Government anxiously desired the continuance of the arrangement thus established and with extreme reluctance now finds itself compelled by the refractory and hostile proceedings of the Killadar to revoke the benefits and favours which it has bestowed upon him and which he has so ungratefully and flagrantly abused.

But from the preceding narrative of facts it will be evident to the world not only that Daryao Singh Choubey has forfeited all claim to the continuance of his grant, but that a connivance of

his conduct would be hazardous to the security and tranquillity of the province and injurious to the honour and reputation of the British Government.

Actuated however in its just resentments by a spirit of clemency and moderation, and unwilling notwithstanding the provocations it has received on the part of Daryao Singh Choubey to involve him and his family in ruin the British Government has resolved to grant him and his dependants a suitable provision, provided he shall peaceably surrender the fortress of Kalinger and the lands annexed to it into the hands of the Officers of the British Government. But in the event of his refusal or evasion the British troops now assembled in Bundelkhand will be prepared to dispossess him by force. In that event the chief of Bundelkhand and all other persons whatsoever are hereby strictly prohibited from affording to Daryao Singh Choubey directly or indirectly any aid or countenance on his opposition to the British Government either by troops or supplies or in any other manner under the penalty of incurring the resentment of the British power. The allegiance and fidelity to their engagements, manifested by the Chiefs of Bundelkhand precludes the supposition of their being disposed to encourage or assist Daryao Singh Choubey in his resistance. On the contrary Government is satisfied of their readiness to contribute by every means in their power to promote the success of any Military operations which the British troops may be compelled to undertake; at the same time it is but just and proper to warn all persons of the consequences of a different course of conduct.

N. B. EDMONSTONE,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Shaikh Dowlat Ali appeared and deposed on oath I went with a letter directed to Choubey Daryao Singh Killedar of Kalinger and was directed to write the news. When I arrived at the Gate of the city, the men stationed there would not allow me to enter, but gave notice to Rao Chuttersal the Choubey's headman. He sent his man for the.....letter. I remained at the Gate, after that a Burkandauze came and called me and gave me a room to stay in. In the evening a man came and gave me the Choubey's letter and told me to send it wheresoever I had brought my letter from and that the Choubey had said it has been agreed with Captain Baillie that no Amlah of the Company's should remain there, at present the contrary was done and that I had no business there and to go away. I sent word by the man that I would not go till I received orders from the Governor-General's Agent. The next morning a man came from the Choubey and said "you had orders yesterday to quit this. Why are you now here." I gave no answer. That night my clothes, a list and value of which I shall give in, was stolen amounting to

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50 Rupees from the room they had given me. I accordingly sent notice of the theft to Choubey Daryao Singh, and Chatrasal. Two Burkandauzes then came from thence, seized my hands and turned me out of the house and said if I stayed in the city, my life and the rest of my property would be in danger and they could not be answerable for it. Therefore through fear of my life, and being turned out of the house by the Burkandauzes, I wished to go to some other place, when a man from Nawal Kishore came and called me to a house of his own. I remained there for three or four days. After this Nawal Kishore went up to the fort and having settled some thing with Chatrasal about the quarrel they had he came to my house and told me through a man he had with him, that he was not for my staying there and to march off. Then Nawal Kishore himself told me to stay that night and to go the next day. Accordingly the next morning a Burkandauze came, took me out of the house and led me out of the city and the Choubey's men who first turned me out, said aloud that "Choubey Daryao Singh has said, that he was not so much dependent on the Company, when the Agent or any one else pleases he may come and fight him, and that he would not allow any news-writer to remain there". Nay it is the Choubey's intention if you do not leave the place to imprison you in lieu of the Mahajan's son who has been sent in and keep you at the top of the fort. I did not wait upon Daryao Singh or Chatrasal, as no servant of the Company's are allowed to go up to the fort. Nor did Chatrasal send for me. Four Burkandauzes were stationed to prevent the inhabitants or strangers coming to the news-writer. Accordingly the Hurcarrahs and my servant, who brought a letter from my brother were not allowed to come. They imprisoned my servant and seized the letter and tore it to pieces and sent it to me. Whatever I have stated is the state of the place.

DOWLAT ALI,

News-writer.

Shaikh Khairati, peadah, appeared and deposed on oath:

I am a servant of Shaikh Noor Ali, brother of Shaikh Dowlat Ali, news-writer. I took him a letter and went to Kalinger. At first the men stationed at the gate would not allow me to enter but sent notice to Chobey Chatrasal, who sent word that the news-writer had come and gone away again, and that I was not to go into the town and that I might return whence I came from. I then went to another gate and got the same answer. A sepahi servant of the Choubey's told me that the news-writer was in Kalinger, but that I should not be allowed to enter the gates and that I might get up a small pathway he showed me. I immediately went. The Sepahis seized me and kept me by them and sent notice to Choubey Chatrasal. He gave order to keep me for the present in

confinement, and present me in the evening. I remained in charge of the Sepahis ; about Mid-night they took me to Chatrasal who took the letters I had in my Kamarband and gave orders to cut off my hands and nose and turn me out of the city. After a minute or two he ordered them to take me up to the fort to stay in confinement there. The Sepahis took me and were going towards the Fort. He called back and said he had a mind to kill me but that he now released me and I was not to return again and told his Sepahis to tie my hands and feet and take me two coss out of the Kalinger Dependencies into the Company's territories and return. Accordingly two Burkundauzes tied my hands with my Turban and dragged me about two coss away from the Kalinger boundaries. From that I came to Bandedee, although I said before Choubey Chatrasal and his men that I had come to the news-writers of Government and had brought letters from his brother, they would not allow me to enter. This is the case as I have represented.

SHAIKH KHAIRATI,
Peadah.

Letter No. 2.—The letter conveys the information that the fort of Kalinjar surrendered to the British on the 8th February 1812.

FROM—J. RICHARDSON, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN BUDELKHAND.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Kalinjar, 10th February 1812.

I have the honour to inform you that on the morning of the 8th instant the celebrated fortress of Kalinger in Budelhkand surrendered to the British Arms and the British Troops were in possession of the place at noon of that day.

Letter No. 3.—The letter refers to the Gaikwar's claims of Ghasdana on the Nawab of Cambay and to the withdrawal of the Pindaries to a place where they mean to spend the monsoon months.

FROM—J. WILLIAMS. ASSISTANT TO RESIDENT AT BARODA.

TO—FRANCIS WARDEN. CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, BOMBAY.

Baroda, 14th May 1813.

Captain Carnac having proceeded to Cambay for the purpose of adjusting the Ghasdana demands of the Gaikwar Sirkar, on His Excellency the Nawab, I have the honour to forward heads of intelligence regarding the movements of the Pindaries. The Pindaries have departed from the vicinity of Burhanpore, Khandesh, Sutwass

and Hinded, and are encamped at Kareemnaghur, about 30 Coss to the Northward of the latter place, where they propose remaining during the ensuing monsoon, it is also reported that Maharaj Alija Bahadur, with a force consisting of 10,000 men, and a body of Pindaries, intends proceeding via Japoor Kansool, towards Khandesh. But I do not attach much credit to this report. Japoor Kansoor(?) is situated 70 Coss from Burhanpur. I have received no other intelligence of any movement.

Letter No 4.—The letter refers to the regulation made by the British Government about the exemption from the pilgrim tax that will be granted to the members, dependants and the suite of the friendly chiefs and persons of elevated ranks as a mark of respect, friendship and regard on the part of British Government. It was not to be granted indiscriminately and to larger numbers than one hundred.

FROM—J MONCKTON, PERSIAN SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, 26th March 1813.

You have already been informed by a letter of the 15th of January from the Political Department of the decided resolution of Government to adhere strictly to the established limitations of exemptions from the pilgrim tax under any one application to one hundred persons, except in very peculiar cases which may warrant of special deviation from the general rule, and have been desired to explain the nature and intent of the regulation in question to all persons who may apply through you for exemption for a number of persons exceeding 100, except in those cases which can be considered to fall within the principle of reservation stated in that resolution. It is not to be understood from this, that an exemption for 100 followers is to be granted in all cases. That indulgence is to be considered as itself a favour, which is to be granted only to persons of suitable rank and condition.

2. With a view however to check the extravagant application which are constantly made by Chiefs for exemptions in favour of thousands of followers, and to deprive them of all plea for expecting a compliance with their unreasonable demands, the Governor-General in Council deems it expedient, that without even waiting until applications are actually made immediately from the Durbar, you should at once convey to the Court a formal and distinct explanation of the principles which govern the conduct of Government in granting exemptions from the pilgrim tax, and of its fixed resolution to act in strict conformity to those principles.

3. You will therefore inform the Durbar that as Government is at a considerable expense in maintaining the large religious establishments for the support of the different places of worship it is necessary in order to defray that expense, to continue the practice

which uniformly prevailed under the native Governments of levying a tax from those for whose benefit those establishments are entertained. That accordingly, in pursuance of the custom which prevailed under former Government a law has been enacted by which a light and moderate tax has been established on pilgrims resorting to the principal places of Worship, and that any deviation from that law is attended with inconvenience and is indeed in itself improper, since laws when once established should be uniformly and regularly enforced. That this is necessary to the good order and efficiency of every well regulated Government. That however the British Government anxious to manifest its respect and consideration for friendly Chiefs and other persons of rank, thought proper to make an exception from the general rule in their favour, and therefore determined as a mark of distinction to grant exemptions to them and their immediate relations, and dependants. That upon this principle, the British Government resolved to grant exemptions to such Chiefs and other distinguished personages to the extent of one hundred persons as being the number which would in general be sufficient to embrace their families, and that it is only in cases when the party applying for an exemption shall possess elevated rank, and that the restricted number shall be known to be insufficient to include his whole suite; that Government will in future be disposed to depart materially from the established rule; that therefore with a view to prevent future disappointment, you are instructed to declare that the number of exemptions will hereafter be limited excepting in very peculiar cases to 100 persons, and never on any account be extended beyond that of the relations and dependants of any chief; and that the numerous followers who are in the habit of joining the chiefs in the progress of their pilgrimage cannot be permitted to partake of the privilege of exemption which is merely granted as a personal honour to themselves, but that they must in common with the subjects of the British Government and others be subjected to the operation of the Regulation for the payment of the tax, since they cannot on any principle of justice be permitted to enjoy privileges which are denied by Government to its own subjects. You will particularly state that the object of granting exemptions is not to relieve those to whom they are granted from expense, since money is no object to those who apply for and obtain remissions, nor to enable Chiefs to employ them as a source of patronage by procuring the gratuitous admission of thousands to the temples of Worship but that the sole principle on which they are granted is that of manifesting respect, friendship and regard for friendly Chiefs and other persons of elevated rank; that the remissions are therefore of course intended to include only those who are bona fide attached to their suite.

4. It is hoped that an explanation to the foregoing effect will be the means of preventing many unreasonable applications for exemptions, while it will certainly enable Government to reject with less difficulty those which may be made,

Letter No. 5.—The letter intimates the circumstances that had led the British Government to take up arms against the Raja of Rewa. The letter throws light on the attitude of native powers in general to the British alliance which often forced protection on them.

FROM—J. ADAM, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort William, 4th April 1813.

The British Government having been compelled to take up arms against the Rajah of Rewah for the purpose of obtaining satisfaction for his hostile and treacherous proceedings towards the British Government and security for his future conduct, I am directed to communicate to you a brief statement of the events and transactions which have produced this necessity to enable you to satisfy any enquiries which may be made at the court at which you reside concerning the Military operations now in progress for the invasion of Rewa. if the advance of our troops shall not produce the Rajah's immediate submission.

2. In the month of October 1812, a treaty of alliance was concluded between the British Government and the Rajah of Rewah who had made overtures for that purpose of which one of the leading provisions was, that a British force should be stationed in his country for the purpose of co-operating with his own troops in obstructing the passage of the Pindaries through his country, the British Government consenting on its part to guarantee his dominions against foreign attacks. A detachment was accordingly advanced into the Rewah country under the command of Captain Patrickson immediately on the conclusion of the Treaty.

3. The great and obvious advantages which the Rajah would derive from the alliance and his own earnestness for its formation, afforded just grounds of expectation, that he would sincerely and cordially fulfil the obligations which it imposed on him, and endeavour as far as depended on his exertions to give it effect. He has nevertheless, from the moment of the advance of the detachment, continued to manifest almost without interruption, an entire disregard of the obligations of the alliance and a decided opposition to the views and objects of the British Government as connected with it. Instead of exerting himself to promote the convenience and accommodation of the Detachment, it was with great reluctance that he permitted it to encamp within his territory, and the troops were exposed to the imminent hazard of distress from want of supplies. The prudent conduct of the Officer Commanding the Detachment and the prompt interference of the Governor-General's Agent in Budelkhand, shortly surmounted this inconvenience, and the Detachment proceeded to occupy a position in the Rewa terri-

tory where it has since remained. But in this instance alone has the Rajah been brought to a just sense of the nature and force of his engagements with the British Government.

4. He at first positively refused and has since evaded on the most idle and frivolous pretexts the establishment of Dawk, through his country, by which means all direct communication between the Detachment in Rewa, and other posts established under the present system of defensive arrangements on the frontier is interrupted. Having withdrawn his open opposition to the establishment of the Dark it has since been obstructed by the contumacy and disobedience of one of the principal Jagirdars in Rewa, and although the Rajah has pretended to exert his authority to compel the Jagirdar to comply, there is strong ground of suspicion that he has instigated and encouraged the opposition of his Jagirdar, or at least that his endeavours to overcome it were not sincere, thus aggravating his misconduct by the most insulting duplicity and hypocrisy.

5. The Rajah has withdrawn his Vakeels from Banda, the station where the Governor-General's Agent resides, and from Captain Patrickson's Camp, and has discontinued any intercourse with the Agent except that, which he has been compelled to maintain, by the necessity of answering the various representations and remonstrance which Mr Wauchope has had occasion to address to him.

6. It has been ascertained beyond a doubt that he secretly dispatched an Emissary to the Camp of Dost Mohammed Pindarraah above two months ago and that the Emissary still remains there. Although the object of the mission of this person is not known with any certainty, it cannot be doubted from the circumstance of his being nearly allied by blood to the Rajah that it is of an interesting and confidential nature. The concealment from the British Government of the Mission of an Agent to the leader of one of those predatory bands against whose attacks it was the principal object of the Treaty to provide, is in itself, an act entirely inconsistent with the spirit of his engagements or a cordial disposition towards the British Government.

7. Mr. Wauchope judged it expedient to depute a news-writer to reside at the Rajah's capital, and furnished him with a letter of instructions to the Rajah. The news-writer was not permitted to enter the town nor was the letter received by the Rajah for a considerable time. The Rajah has since urged Mr. Wauchope to recall him, and it has been done, although the mission of a news-writer at that precise moment might not unnaturally excite the jealous suspicion of the Rajah. The refusal to admit him to his presence or to receive Mr. Wauchope's letter, was a most offensive and insulting act towards the British Government, and the

tardy and reluctant receipt of the letter unaccompanied by any change of conduct towards the Bearer of it, and followed by demanding his recall cannot be received as any evidence of an improving disposition.

8. The Governor-General was disposed for some time to believe that the unfriendly conduct of the Rajah did not originate in any such disposition of his own, but was excited by some of his Chiefs adverse to the British connection, or if originating with himself, that it would gradually subside, as the jealousy with which the first advance of a British Detachment into his country might not unnaturally excite should be removed, and be succeeded by a reflection on the great benefits which he would derive from the alliance. This hope however as well as the expectations raised by the apparent impression produced on his mind by the remonstrances of the Agent, and which had induced the Government to forbear from resorting to coercive measures were entirely disappointed.

9. All the facts above stated taken together constitute the most undoubted proof of a disposition on the part of the Rajah; decidedly adverse to the alliance, and a resolution to defeat or thwart the views with which it was formed by every means in his power.

10. Impressed with the conviction the Governor-General in Council had no course to take, but to abandon the alliance or to compel the Rajah to fulfil its stipulations, and afford adequate security for his future adherence to them.

11. The objections to the first were obvious and decisive. It would neither have been consistent with the honour of the Government, nor with the security of the country from those dangers against which the alliance was intended to provide, nor with those essential interests which are prospectively involved in the policy of enforcing on the part of other states an adherence to the obligations which they may contract with the British Government.

12. These are the sole objects of any hostile demonstrations, or of any measures of the same character which the present and future conduct of the Rajah of Rewah may have rendered indispensable against that Chief and of which the accounts may reach you from the proper officers or from any other quarter.

13. It is not intended to demand any concession from the Rajah which will affect his rights or possessions, unless his resistance and the further proofs which he may furnish of actual combination with the Pindaries and generally of inimical dispositions towards the British Government or its allies, should unavoidably lead the Governor-General in Council to extend his views to other modes of coercion and beyond his present purposes, which is strictly limited to the exaction of adequate securities for those rights which we ourselves derive from the Treaty.

Letter No. 6.—The letter intimates the proceedings of the British Government regarding their invasion of Rewa and terms offered to the Raja.

FROM—J. WAUCHOPE, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Banda, 3rd May 1813.

The dispatch of Government to your address of the 4th ultimo a copy of which I have received, will have put you in possession of the origin and progress up to that date of the operations against Rewah.

2. I have now the honour to inform you that the Rajah has not yet acceded to the demand which I was directed to make to him, as the only alternative by which he could arrest the progress of the invasion of his country. Colonel Martindell had in consequence continued his march from Panna, where he had waited for some days the arrival of the Battering Train.

3. My last accounts, dated the 29th ultimo, left Colonel Martindell at Sahawul near to the Rewah frontier. He then expected to be at the capital on the 3rd instant, where he would be joined by Lieutenant Colonel Barrell's Detachment from Mirzapore.

4. The demand I was instructed to make to the Rajah was that he should repair in person to Colonel Martindell's Camp, or depute Vakeels fully empowered to submit to whatever conditions should be presented to him. He was at the same time apprized that those conditions would not go to affect his rights or possessions, and he was assured of being received with every consideration for his rank and safety to his person, in the event of his personal attendance in Camp.

Letter No. 7.—The letter reports about the arrival of the Raja of Rewa in the camp of Col. Martindell on the evening of 10th May.

FROM—J. WAUCHOPE, AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Camp on the bank of River Tonse, 14th May 1813.

In continuation of my letter of the 3rd instant, I have the pleasure to inform you that the Rajah of Rewah arrived in Colonel Martindell's Camp on the evening of the 10th instant.

Lieutenant Colonel Barrell's detachment from Mirzapore joined Colonel Martindell on the 12th instant, after having sustained a trifling loss in its progress, the particulars of which I have not yet learnt.

Letter No. 8.—The enclosures reveal the condition of Holkar's affairs and the influence of Amir Khan, who was trying to dominate Holkar's affairs.

FROM—R. STRACHEY, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Sindhia's Camp, 14th January 1814.

I have the honour to enclose extracts of two newspapers from Holkar's Camp, and of one from that of Bala Bhow

*Extract of a newspaper from Holkar's Camp,
dated the 5th of January 1814.*

Daji represented, that the Nawab Amir Khan desired that Meena Bai should have nothing to do with the transaction of the Military or civil matters, she should only concern herself with domestic affairs, and not meddle with those of state, he also desired that four or five Mehals should be set apart for Jaidad to the Sillahdars. That afterwards, the Nawab Amir Khan had resolved to march towards Nagpur, on a concerted plan with Ranah Zalim Singh and under these conditions "that a document be given in the name of the Nawab Amir Khan under the seal of Maharajah Sewoy Malhar Rao Holkar Bahadur, constituting the Nawab Amir Khan absolute manager on the part of the Holkar state of all concerns, whatever he may advise being approved of that no correspondence such as that of Derma Kooer shall be carried on with any tributary Rajahs, and no negotiations regarding war or peace with the Peshwa, Sindhia, or the British Governments shall take place without the advice of the said Nawab" That we may avoid being disappointed as before. The Bye on hearing this remained silent. It is probable that what the Nawab Amir Khan has set his heart on, will be undertaken.

Extract of an Akhbar, dated the 6th January 1814.

The Nawab Meer Khan, the Bye, and Daji Dewan having held consultation together, it appears that first of all the pay of the Sillahdars with His Highness is to be settled and then that four or five Mehals are to be set apart for the Mahajans who have been called in by Dajee, that Dajee should have the direction of affairs, and that the office of Colonel be continued as usual to Ethal Pant Tantia, for it is not advisable to turn out any of the old Ministers. Then after obtaining full powers from the Maharajah the Nawab would march towards Nagpur, taking with him

Karim Khan Pindarah, and the Detachment would remain in the Pindary fashion. The Nawab Amir Khan told the Ministers to investigate the accounts of the Battalions, Park, Topkhana, Pagas, Sillehdars, Cattle, Karkhanah and Toshakhana, and afterwards arrangements for the expenditure would be made.

*Extract of an Akhbar from Bala Bhow's Camp,
dated the 7th of January 1814, near Javud.*

Ram Rao Nana said that the Nawab Meer Khan was assembling a force in Holkar's Camp for an invasion of Nagpur and that he would probably march shortly towards Nagpur. Bala Bhow remarked that if the Nawab has this design it will be the worse for him, because the British Government are allies of the Nagpur Rajah, and they will in time render him assistance.

(True translation)

G. WELLESLEY.

Letter No. 9.—The letter reports the death of the Nawab Wazir of Oudh on 11th July at 11 p.m.

FROM—J. BAILLIE, RESIDENT AT LUCKNOW.

TO—J. ADAM, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Lucknow, 11th July 1814.

With genuine concern I announce to you for the information of His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor-General the sudden and unexpected demise of His Excellency the Nawab Vizir at eleven o'clock p.m. this instant the 11th of July.

I am now in the palace and happy to be enabled to add for His Lordship's satisfaction that I see no cause to apprehend the smallest disorder or confusion in the capital or dominions of Oude in consequence of this melancholy event.

Mr. Wilson, Surgeon to the Residency, who is now with me in the Palace ascribes His Excellency's death to apoplexy or the bursting of a blood-vessel near the heart.

It is my intention to remain in the palace till the accession of His Excellency's eldest son to the musnad and the conclusion of all the ceremonies and arrangements connected with that occasion; for the purpose of witnessing and assisting at which I have summoned the Commanding Officer of the troops with all the troops at the station.

Should any reinforcement be deemed necessary I shall use the authority vested in me to call the troops from Cawnpore.

Letter No. 10.—The letter contains two enclosures one of which a paper of intelligence gives information about the forces of the various Chiefs in Hindustan.

FROM—F. WARDEN, CHIEF SECRETARY TO BOMBAY GOVERNMENT.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Bombay Castle, 28th August 1816.

I am directed by the Right Honourable the Governor in Council to communicate, for your information, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Resident at Baroda, dated the 15th of this month with its accompaniment, conveying intelligence regarding the forces of the Native Chiefs in Hindustan.

TO—FRANCIS WARDEN, ESQUIRE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, BOMBAY.

SIR,

I have the honour to furnish you for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council with the enclosed paper of intelligence regarding the forces of Native Chiefs in Hindustan.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Baroda:

J. R. CARNAC,

15th August 1816.

Resident.

Extract of a letter from Chishti Mean alias Ismail-ud-din, dated Godra 19th Ramzan 14th August 1816 received 15th August 1816.

After compliments.

The present news is, that the Pindarrahs about 50,000 strong are encamped at Peeplaud, a town about 25 Coos from Ujjain.

The troops of Jean Baptiste reckoned 25,000 are at Rajkot a town about 25 Coos north of Ujjain; he has 50 guns with him.

Holkar's troops said to be nearly 25,000 strong (including followers) are encamped at Rampoorah Bhanpoorah; they have 40 Guns with them.

Morar Rao Powar, the Governor of Dhar, died lately; he had with him a force of 5 or 6,000 men at that time. Raghonath, Bapoo was encamped at Ujjain with about the same number; on Powar's direction marched and attacked them. The Dhar forces

were defeated and plundered. Raghunath returned to Ujjain. Maharajah Dowlat Rao Sindhia is encamped at Gwalior with a force amounting to 100,000 men, including all discription of people.

Meer Khan has with him 15,000 men and 50 Guns; he is besieging Jaipur.

Sindhia, Meer Khan, Jean Baptiste and all the rest of the Chiefs are collecting troops, and they say that there will certainly be a war with the English this year and on that account troops must be assembled by every one. Kustnajee Pandit who is now Governor of Godra examines every person who arrives there with the greatest scrutiny being afraid that any Emissaries from the British Government should be sent to learn their present state of affairs.

(True translation extract)

J. R. CARNAC,

Resident.

Letter No. 11.—R. Close took charge as the Resident from G. Wellesley.

FROM—R. CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT RAO SINDHIA.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Gwalior, 17th March 1816.

I have the honour to inform you that I arrived in Dowlat Rao Sindhia's Camp yesterday morning and that I have today assumed charge of the duties of this Residency.

Letter No. 12.—The letter of which the first 12 paras are missing is important. This letter and its enclosures explain the circumstances and motives of a treaty that was about to be concluded between Jaipur and the British. This treaty and the one concluded with Bhopal were likely to precipitate a situation that might require resort to arms for deciding certain issues. For this purpose precautions had to be taken on certain lines which are suggested in the letter and its enclosures.

FROM—J. ADAM, SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

TO—C. METCALFE, RESIDENT AT DELHI.

Fort William, 20th April 1816.

[The first 26 pages of this letter are missing in the volume. It appears from the Index that the letter has been addressed to C. Metcalfe, Esquire, Resident at Delhi.—ED.]

. . . either to postpone or to relinquish altogether the demand on account of Subsidy for the first one or two. If you shall be satisfied of the necessity or expediency of extending this indulgence in either form to the state of Jaipore, you will be pleased to insert a stipulation to that effect in the Treaty or render it the subject of a separate engagement. The amount and period of the instalments in which the subsidy is to be paid, will be regulated according to your discretion consulting the convenience of both Governments.

13. If the resources of Jaipore were in a condition to admit of their bearing such a charge, it would be reasonable to expect that state to defray the expense which the British Government would incur in settling the country and restoring the Rajah's authority by the employment of means exclusive of the established subsidiary force. In the actual state of Jaipur, however, and adverting to the benefit to be derived to our own interests from the re-establishment of tranquillity and order in that Government, it is a service which the Governor-General in Council would willingly render to the Raja of Jaipur without requiring a reimbursement of the expense. At the same time if it should be practicable to obtain reimbursement at a future time for those expenses without imposing too great a burden on the finances of the state of Jaipur, and if the demands of such reimbursement should not appear to be likely to derogate from the character of our procedure for liberality, His Lordship in Council is disposed to think, that it would be advisable to stipulate for it, provided a disposition to comply should appear on the part of the Rajah.

14. The Governor-General in Council is sensible of the superior advantages on every account of obtaining a cession of territory in lieu of Subsidy; but the position of Jaipur between which and our frontier the possessions of other Chiefs intervene appears to present an obstacle to this arrangement in the present instance, for although the intervention of those possessions which belong to allies or dependents of the British Government does not operate as any impediment to our Political and Military communications with Jaipur, yet it would constitute a material obstruction to our administration of the Civil Government of a territory situated beyond them. For the present therefore the commutation of the subsidy for territory cannot be contemplated. It is to be expedient, however, even as a to the Rajah to pay the subsidy with regularity to insert a clause providing for the assignment of territory in the event of any failure or material delay in the pecuniary payments.

15. It is considered a point of material importance to promise for the maintenance by the Rajah of Jaipur in a state of constant efficiency of a body of horse to be at the disposal of the British Government for all purposes of common interest. The accounts of this force must be regulated by the means of the state, and provision should be made for the due execution of with regard both to the numbers and the condition of the troops. It will be

necessary therefore to secure to the British Government the right of periodical inspection and muster of the troops or to devise other means more consistent with the wishes of the Rajah's Government for effecting this object.

16. One mode of accomplishing this arrangement the object of which is to obtain the services of an useful body of irregular Horse at all times would be for the British Government to undertake to raise and maintain the troops of which the Rajah would defray the expense. This would in fact be a virtual augmentation of the Subsidiary force and an increase of Subsidy, but the troops thus raised should be understood not to be for the immediate service of the Rajah in ordinary times but to be ready for general service when required by the British Government. Under such an arrangement it might be practicable to relieve the British Government from a part of the expense of the independent cavalry now in its pay without losing the benefit of its services or to augment that useful description of force without additional expenses. A body of five or even three thousand good horses would constitute a very useful addition to our force when it might be required to undertake active operations and would be preferable to a much superior numerical force of more questionable efficiency. You will be pleased to regulate this part of the arrangement according to your judgment formed on the information you may obtain, unless you should be desirous of referring the question to Government and time should admit of the reference without inconvenience.

17. Exclusive of the stipulated contingent the Rajah must engage to bring forward his whole military force and to employ all the resources of his country in cases of joint war.

18. An article providing for the arbitration and award by the British Government of all questions arising between the Rajah of Jaipore and other states will necessarily form a part of the proposed treaty and its provisions will embrace any claims to tribute from Jaipore which may be advanced by Sindhia or Holkar. The Governor-General in Council is satisfied that neither of those chiefs possesses any just claim to tribute from Jaipore. By the stipulations of the Treaties concluded between the British Government and those Chiefs respectively in 1803 and 1806 they relinquished all claims on the allies of the British Government of whom the Rajah of Jaipur was at that time one. Any existing claims therefore must have originated since the dissolution of our alliance with Jaipore in 1806, and it is the belief of His Lordship in Council that no obligation for the payment of any fixed or regular tribute has been incurred by the State of Jaipur since that period, whatever may have been the sums forcibly exacted from it or the ostensible ground of those exactions. Notwithstanding this conviction His Lordship in Council will prepare to receive and examine any claims they may bring forward in an amicable manner and see justice

cuted without delay. It is calculated that the force can be assembled at Muttra and Rewaree in the first week of July, a period which is considered to be well adopted for the advance of the troops as being a season in which we act with considerable advantage against a force such as that which is the most likely to be opposed to us namely the troops of Amir Khan aided by bodies of Pindaris whose attempts to create a diversion by making predatory inroads into our provinces will be materially obstructed by the state of the rivers while on the other hand, time will be afforded for the negotiation and conclusion of the treaty and for any other preparatory arrangements which it may be necessary to concert with the Rajah. It is extremely desirable that the Rajah of Jaipore should be made sensible of the importance of maintaining secrecy regarding the object and progress of the negotiation, in order that the success of the whole arrangement may not be exposed to hazard by a premature disclosure of our views to those who must be interested in thwarting them.

27 As soon as the treaty is concluded or the negotiations shall have arrived at such a stage as to render any longer concealment of the object impracticable or unimportant, it will be desirable that the troops should concentrate at the points above designated with the least practicable delay. On this subject you will be prepared to correspond with Major General Marshall Commanding in the field and with Major General Sir D. Ochterlony who will have reassumed the command of the third division of the Field Army, and will be prepared to assume that of the troops destined to advance into Jaipur.

28 As soon as these preparations are completed or nearly so, or at such earlier period as you may judge advisable, you will make a public and official declaration of the conclusion of the Treaty with Jaipur and you will be prepared to communicate that circumstance in an especial manner to Amir Khan. The intimation to Amir Khan should run thus, that the alliance with Jaipur involves no adoption of the hostilities which may have been waging by that state, against any of its neighbours and of course is not a procedure enimical to him specifically. But that as the tenor of the connection will bind us to protect the state of Jaipur from any demands but such as we shall have on investigation recognized as just his exactions from that territory must cease. Further that as the British Government pledges itself not to suffer the continuance of any foreign troops within the dominions of the Rajah of Jaipur, he must necessarily withdraw his forces beyond those limits within which he can have no claim to remain either on his own account or on that of Holkar who renounced all pretension to tribute from Jaipur by the treaty of 1806. It may be added that at a proper time the British Government will not object to listen to any claim which Holkar's Durbar, may produce, but that whatever may be the merits of this question, they cannot justify Amir Khan in remaining in the territory of Jaipur after the solemn notification of

its having placed itself under the protection of the British Government and in the absence of any title on his part to object to that arrangement. He must be apprized that should he disregard this explanation the British troops which are advancing into the Jaipur territory in great force must necessarily be obliged to attack any thing that might.....them, for the consequences of which he alone will be responsible and that in such an event his retreat from Jaipur will no longer be sufficient but that he having by this deliberate and unprovoked act of hostility against the British Government compelled it to regard him as an enemy. It will not cease to prosecute operations against him or any who may attempt to support him until they shall be deprived of all their possessions and their power be utterly broken and destroyed. This is merely stated as the general tenor of the language to be held to Amir Khan and your communication will be condensed, enlarged or modified, according to your discretion under a near view of the circumstances of the case.

29. In adverting to Holkar's supposed claims or to any other matter referring to his Government, it will be proper to avoid any thing that can be construed into an admission of Amir Khan's right to negotiate on the part of Holkar, a right which has never been recognized by the British Government and the acknowledgement of which might eventually prove embarrassing.

30. A communication to the same effect as yours, should be addressed to Amir Khan by Major General Sir David Ochterlony on entering the Jaipur territory, and that officer will be empowered to correspond with Amir Khan on all points connected with the evacuation of Jaipur by that Chief and his confederates.

31. It is considered to be desirable to avoid entering on any negotiation with him on other points. Overtures have at different times been made by Amir Khan to the British Government for placing himself under its authority on receiving a Jagir for his personal maintenance and a provision for his troops. His propositions have always been of a nature too extravagant to merit attention even supposing them to have been dictated by a spirit of sincerity, which there is too much reason to doubt. It is possible that similar overtures may be renewed by Amir Khan or that some of his subordinate Chiefs may desire to take service with the British Government; I am instructed therefore to state that the Governor-General in Council does not contemplate the occurrence of any circumstances which will render it expedient to accept of those offers and if made, it is his Lordship's desire that they may be civilly declined. Should the alliance with Jaipur contrary to expectation lead to more extensive measures and operations than are now contemplated, it may become expedient to consider the means of detaching a portion of Amir Khan's troops from his interests, but there will be sufficient time for considering that subject hereafter.

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32. I have already observed that it is not the expectation of the Governor-General in Council that Sindhia will adopt any measures of an extreme nature to oppose our alliance with Jaipur, unpalatable as that arrangement will unquestionably prove to him, the particular grounds of this expectation need not be stated here, as they will be perceptible to you from your knowledge of the actual condition of his Government and the general state of his political relations. It will be obvious to you that our projected alliance with Nagpur is likely materially to diminish Sindhia's chance of exciting other powers to unite in any designs he may meditate against the British Government.

33. The forbearance of Sindhia will also, it is hoped, be secured by the moderate and conciliatory tone which it is the intention of the Governor-General in Council to hold towards him relative to this affair, as well as by the state of preparation on all sides to meet any hostile movement on his part in which he will perceive us to be. You will receive with this dispatch a copy of the instructions which will be addressed to the Resident with Sindhia on the subject.

34. In considering the consequence of our alliance with Jaipur, it is necessary to advert to its probable effect on the mind of the Rajah of Bharatpur, whose conduct has at different times afforded such just ground of displeasure and distrust to the British Government. The Governor-General in Council is willing to hope, that those sentiments of mingled fear and dislike which at one time governed his conduct have given way to a better inclination and that satisfied of our Government entertaining no hostile feeling towards him he is disposed to act as becomes his near relation to it: still it will be expedient as soon as our forces are prepared to advance into Jaipur to apprize the Rajah distinctly of the object of their movement both to remove any alarm he might entertain and perhaps to conciliate his confidence by this display of our own. You will be pleased to consider whether it would be expedient to invite him to put in motion a body of his troops to act with ours and should this be deemed by you advisable you will represent the requisition as made in consequence of the Rajah's personal assurance to the Governor General that the Bharatpur troops were always ready to take the field whensoever His Excellency should call for their services.

35. His Lordship in Council does not apprehend that the same considerations require a similar communication to the Government of Machery but it will be desirable to apprize that Government also both as a proof of friendship, and because the resources of the country may be useful and the use of the roads through it, convenient, during the progress of operations in Jaipur. It is probable that the Government of Machery will tender the services of a body of troops which it would be desirable to accept in order to establish the habitude of their co-operating with our forces. In like manner the zeal of the hereditary Chiefs of Dadree and Ferozepore

and the principal Jagirdars will probably induce them to make an offer of their service. It might on the same principles be advisable to accept their services and to render their troops as well as those of Machery and Bharatpur subservient to the defence of the passes against my attempt at predatory incursion. This employment of them may be more desirable than to carry them into Jaipur where adverting to the ample force of British troops their services would not be necessary and they would contribute to consume the resources of that impoverished country may perhaps injure our cause by their want of discipline. The presence of the Macherry troops especially in Jaipur might be unpleasant to the Government of the latter country owing to the circumstances of their former connection and subsequent disagreement. On these points you will determine in concert and communication with Major General Sir David Ochterlony.

36. I have now adverted to every point on which instructions appear to be requisite at the present time. The Governor-General in Council will be happy to receive an early communication from you on any part of these instructions on which explanation or more explicit direction may appear to you to be requisite and His Lordship in Council invites the fullest and most unreserved communication of your sentiments on every branch of the important subject of this dispatch.

37. I am directed to transmit copy of a letter of this day's date to the Acting Adjutant General, relative to the military preparations and arrangements connected with the service in contemplation. Copies of letters addressed to the Government of Fort St. George and Bombay and to the Resident at Hyderabad, Poona and Nagpur, are enclosed; you will be pleased to apprise the Residents at those Courts and the Court of Dowlat Rao Sindhia of the conclusion of the treaty with Jaipore, as soon as it shall have taken place. You will also be pleased to notify the same circumstance to the Superintendent of Political Affairs in Bundelkhand as well as to Major General Marshall and Sir David Ochterlony.

38. You will correspond confidentially with Major General Marshall on all points of a liminary nature referring to his authority, and you will maintain with Sir David Ochterlony the most unreserved communication on every part of the question political and military, keeping him informed of the progress of your negotiations and proceedings.

Communication made by Roy Ram Singh, Vakeel of the Rājah of Jaipur to the Persian Secretary.

The sum of the Maharajah's wish is that the Treaty of alliance which was concluded during the administration of the Marquis Wellesley should be renewed, so that by the friendship and assistance of the British Government he may be relieved from the exaction of the Southern Chiefs, and reposing in peace and security,

manifest his attachment to the British interests. The Maharaja is anxious that certain places, forming part of his original possessions which in consequence of the enmity of the late Maharaja Mahadjee Sindhia have passed into the hands of others, should be restored to him. Leaving all these points however to the pleasure of the British Government, he has communicated them to the Resident at Delhi, by whom they will no doubt have been reported to his Lordship. The Maharaja depends on the ancient friendship and harmony subsisting between the two states, for the manifestation of his Lordship's kindness in this affair.

(Sd.) J. MONCKTON,

Persian Secretary to Government.

FROM—THE RAJAH OF JAIPUR.

Received 15th March 1816.

In a propitious moment I had the honour and gratification of receiving your Lordship's letter, conveying the pleasing accounts of your Lordship's safe return to Calcutta. The receipt of this happy intelligence for which I had been looking with anxiety, has afforded me the most cordial satisfaction. As soon as I heard of your Lordship's being on your return to the Presidency, I directed Roy Ram Singh to attend your Lordship. He has accordingly had the honour to pay his personal respects to your Lordship, and has communicated to you my solicitation for the renewal of the alliance, together with other particulars. As your Lordship promotes the wishes of sincere friends, and unravels their difficulties I entertain every hope from your Lordship's generosity. The Roy by my orders has imparted to your Lordship the wishes of my heart with which I trust, your Lordship will comply if you have not already done so. I shall wait with anxious impatience for your Lordship's answer to this amicable address. Believe me to be in every respect the adherent and confederate of the British Government. The past and present circumstances are well known to your Lordship's enlightened mind. They are known indeed to all the world. Any explanation therefore on the present occasion is superfluous.

The renewal of the Treaty of alliance would secure the tranquillity of my country, and my future repose. No deviation shall ever occur on my part from the arrangement which may be concerted by your Lordship.

Whatever that prince shall do will be meet and proper.

For further particulars I beg leave to refer your Lordship to the communications of my confidential servant Roy Ram Singh.

Believing my friendly heart to be ever anxious for accounts of your Lordship's health, continue to gratify me by kind letters.

(A true translation).

(Sd.) J. MONCKTON,

Persian Secretary.

FROM—THE RAJAH OF JAINAGAR.

Received December 1815.

I hope that your Lordship has arrived safe at the Presidency, and that I shall have the satisfaction of receiving that happy intelligence from your Lordship.

Roy Ram Singh who has been detained at Benares by indisposition, will now proceed to pay his respects to your Lordship and on presenting this friendly address to your Lordship, will impart to you my wishes. From your Lordship's excessive kindness and friendship, I entertain the fullest hopes of my welfare.

I trust that your Lordship will continue to gratify me by friendly letters.

(A true translation)

(Sd.) J. MONCKTON,

Persian Secretary to Government.

FROM—THE RAJAH OF JAINAGAR.

Received December 1815.

From the communications of Roy Ram Singh, I am extremely happy to learn that your Lordship is on your return to that quarter. By the favour of God your Lordship is endowed with every virtue. From your Lordship, I entertain the greatest hopes in every respect. God grant that they may be realized.

Roy Ram Singh who is stationed with your Lordship (as my Vakeel) will have the honour to attend your Lordship on your return to the Presidency.

As the dependants of both are the same I trust that your Lordship will give permission for that purpose, since it is consistent with the dictates of friendship. For further particulars I have the honour to refer your Lordship to the Roy's verbal communications.

For the rest, believing to be anxious for accounts of your Lordship's health, continue to honour and gratify me by kind letters.

(True translation)

(Sd.) J. MONCKTON,

Persian Secretary to Government.

Treaty of amity and alliance between the Hon'ble East India Company and the Nabob of Bhopal settled on the part of the Hon'ble Company by by virtue of full powers vested in him by His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Francis Earl of Moira Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter one of His Majesty's most Hon'ble Privy

Council, Governor General appointed by the Hon'ble Court of Directors of the said Hon'ble Company to direct and control all their affairs in the East Indies and on the part of the Nabob of Bhopal by
 to the same effect by the said Nabob duly empowered

Whereas the relations of amity have long subsisted between the Company and the State of Bhopal and the Hon'ble Company is cordially disposed to protect and befriend the state of Bhopal, the following articles are agreed upon to give full force and effect to the amicable disposition of the contracting parties

Article 1st

A permanent friendship and alliance are established between the Hon'ble Company and the Nabob of Bhopal. The friends and enemies of one party shall be the friends and enemies of both.

Article 2nd

The Hon'ble Company hereby guarantees the Nabob of Bhopal, his heirs and successors in the possession of all the territory now held by him and engages to protect his right in the same manner as its own from all enemies whatever

Article 3rd

Four Battalions of the Hon'ble Company's Native Infantry, One Regiment of Cavalry, and the usual proportion of artillery men and Ordnance attached with the proper equipment of ammunition and warlike stores shall be permanently stationed on the territories of the Nabob of Bhopal and the British troops shall at all times be at liberty to enter the said territories. In part of the expenses of the above permanent force the Nabob engages to pay regularly to the Hon'ble Company the annual sum of

by regular monthly payments of

... In the event of a failure in the payments of above stipulated, the Nabob hereby agrees that the Hon'ble Company shall have the right to appoint a person to superintend the collection of an equal amount from the country

Article 4th

The Hon'ble Company taking into consideration the devastation to which the territory of Bhopal has been exposed for a series of years and the consequent inability of the Nabob to commence immediately the payments stipulated in the preceding articles agrees to relinquish the payments of the sum above stipulated for the first year calculated from the date of this Treaty and in further proof of its regard and consideration for the Nabob, the Hon'ble Company agrees to take into consideration the remission of a portion of the stipulated payment for the second year.

Article 5th

The Nabob of Bhopal agrees that the possession of the fort and town of Rayseen together with a small tract of land surrounding it shall be permanently vested in the Hon'ble Company to serve as a station for the Subsidiary force and a Depot for Military stores. The Nabob further engages to admit the British troops into the other fortresses and places of strength in his territory at all times when the British Government may deem it expedient.

Article 6th

Although the Hon'ble Company shall be at liberty to increase or diminish the number of its troops in the territory of Bhopal according to circumstances of which the British Government shall be the judge, the said Company engages never to demand any further sum from the Nabob, his heirs and successors beyond the amount specified in the 3rd article.

Article 7th

The Nabob of Bhopal hereby engages to afford every facility and assistance in procuring cattle, grain, etc., to be paid for at the fair market price for the use of the British troops and the Nabob further engages that no duties shall be levied on any articles for the use and consumption of the British troops at any time serving in his territories.

Article 8th

Whenever the Hon'ble Company shall be engaged in hostilities, the Nabob agrees to assist the Hon'ble Company with all his forces and the resources of his dominions, and the Nabob will at all times exert himself to facilitate in every possible manner the collection of supplies for the British troops within the limits of his own territories.

Article 9th

The Hon'ble Company will exercise no interference in the internal administration of Bhopal and the Nabob shall retain unimpaired his uncontrolled authority over his subjects and family.

Article 10th

As by the second article of the present treaty the Company becomes guarantee to the Nabob of Bhopal for security of his country against all external enemies, the hereby agrees that if any misunderstanding should arise him and any other state or Chief he will in the first submit the cause of dispute to the British Government : abide by its decision. If from the obstinacy of the other amicable terms can be settled then the Hon'ble Comp. to assist the Nabob with the forces stationed in his obtain his rights.

Article 11th

Although the Nabob retains the exclusive command of his troops yet he hereby agrees to act during the period of a war regarding their disposition in every respect in conformity to the advice and counsel of the British Government.

Article 12th

The Nabob engages not to enter into nor pursue any negotiation with any foreign state or Chief whatever without the knowledge or approbation of the *Hon'ble Company's Government* and he renounces for ever all connection with the Pindaries.

Article 13th

The Nabob engages neither to entertain in his service nor permit to reside in his territories any European or American or any Native Subject of the *Hon'ble Company* without the consent of the British Government.

Article 14th

This Treaty consisting of 14 articles having been this day concluded by.....on the part of the *Hon'ble Company* and by.....on the part of the Nabob of Bhopal it is hereby agreed that the ratifications shall be exchanged within fifteen days from this date after which the Treaty shall be in full force and effect. Done at Banda this of

(A true copy)

J. ADAM,

Secretary to Government.

TO—HENRY RUSSELL, ESQUIRE, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

SIR,

I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed copy of instructions addressed under this day's date to the Resident at Delhi together with the several documents referred to in those instructions.

2. You will observe that while it is the hope and expectation of the *Governor General in Council*, that the formation of an alliance with Jaipur and the execution of the measures and arrangements immediately resulting from it, will be accomplished without involving the British Government in hostilities, either with Amir Khan or with Sindhia, it has yet been judged expedient to adopt our military arrangements to the possible occurrence of the opposite contingency.

3. With this view it is expedient to consider without delay, the disposition which it may be proper to make of the troops in the Deccan now in advance, and the arrangements which may become requisite for augmenting and supporting them. These

arrangements will eventually be affected by the success of the negotiation which Mr. Jenkins has been instructed to commence with the Rajah of Nagpur. It is unnecessary to advert to make great improvement in our defensive arrangements in the Deccan, which will result from the establishment of a Corps of British troops on the Nerbudda, and the direction of the military resources of the Rajah of Nagpur. His Lordship in Council is not aware that this arrangement will render advisable any change in the position to be occupied by the subsidiary force serving with the Nizam; or the vicinity of Ellichpur will still present the most favourable position for that Corps, with reference both to its immediate objects and to its communication with the force on the Nerbudda. On this point you will however consult Colonel Doveton, and decide according to the result of your combined judgment. If the negotiation at Nagpur shall terminate in the establishment of an alliance with that state, it will probably be judged expedient to remove the station of the Hyderabad force permanently to an advanced point in the line of Ellichpore or Amraoti according to the plan that was discussed in the year 1810, and to push the Poona force on to Jalna. The details of this plan and of the measures which may become necessary for completing the line of defense from Jalna westward will form the subject of future consideration; but you will be pleased in communication with Mr. Elphinstone to give your attention to the subject and to report your opinion for the information of the Governor General in Council.

4. A point for immediate consideration is, the adoption of measures for reinforcing the Hyderabad Subsidiary force in consequence of the considerable reduction of strength which it will undergo by furnishing the Corps to be stationed in the first instance in the territory of Nagpur, the formation of the Subsidiary force in the dominions of the Rajah of Nagpur, and the accession to our interests of the Government of that state will supersede the necessity for rendering the force remaining under the immediate personal command of Colonel Doveton equal in strength to what was deemed proper under opposite circumstances but it should still be maintained in a condition to act separately and if need be, offensively and its actual strength should be regulated by this consideration. The Government of Fort St. George will accordingly be instructed to correspond with you on this subject and to be prepared to comply with your application for the advance of one or more Corps of Native Infantry (in which arms alone it is presumed that any addition will be requisite) to reinforce Colonel Deveton or to supply the place at Secunderabad of such Corps as with a view to save time you may judge it advisable to order on from thence. In the period of the season when these instructions will reach the Government of Fort St. George no cause of alarm from predatory incursions can exist so as to oppose their immediate execution.

5. These arrangements rest on the supposition that the negotiations at Nagpur will succeed. In the opposite event they will not be necessary as the existing dispositions will in that case be maintained unaltered.

6. These are the only instructions that appear to be requisite for your guidance at the present moment with reference to the views and measures of Government connected with the negotiation with Jaipur. The total amount of force which will be in advance in the Deccan together with that which will be assembled in Guzerat and on this side of India will, it may be expected, be sufficient to meet even the improbable contingency of a rupture with Dowlat Rao Sindhia. The Government of Fort St. George will however be prepared to support the advanced Corps to such extent as may be practicable and even eventually to bring forward the whole of their disposable force for the service.

7. In considering the precautionary arrangements which it will be necessary to make, your attention will not fail to be directed to the use that may be made of the troops of His Highness the Nizam in guarding the passes and in such other services they may be available for.

8. It only remains to observe that on receiving from Mr. Metcalfe an intimation that the treaty with the Rajah of Jaipur has been concluded and that other circumstances have induced him to disclose the nature and object of our measures with reference to that court, you will be prepared to notify the event to the Government of His Highness the Nizam, with such explanations as may be requisite to render that Government sensible of its importance of the general interests of the established states of India. Should you find however that the matter has become public or is likely to be so you will exercise your discretion with regard to a communication to the Nizam's Government without awaiting the receipt of an intimation from Mr. Metcalfe. In either case you will represent the necessity of taking steps to prevent the growth of the predatory associations as the main and ruling inducement of the measure.

9. The real objects of the movements of the troops may without difficulty be concealed by the connection which they will naturally appear to have with the establishment of the force on the Nerbudda unallied to any objects of more extensive nature.

10. A copy of this dispatch will be communicated to the Governor in Council of Fort St. George and of Bombay and to the several Residents at Foreign Courts.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Fort William :

Your most obedient humble servant,

The 20th April 1816.

(Sd.) J. ADAM,

Secretary to Government.

To—MAJOR NICOL, ACTING ADJUTANT GENERAL.

SIR,

His Excellency the Governor General in Council having resolved to commence negotiation with the Rajah of Jaipur with a view to the formation of an alliance with that state, I am directed to request, that you will communicate to His Excellency the Commander in Chief the resolutions and intentions of His Lordship in Council connected with the proposed measure which I now proceed to explain to you.

2. The basis of the projected alliance is the extending to the state of Jaipur the protection and guarantee of the British Government, and the establishing a Subsidiary Force of British troops in that country. The first and immediate effect of the conclusion of an alliance on the basis just stated will be an obligation on the part of the British Government to emancipate the state of Jaipur from the lawless oppressions and exactions which it now suffers at the hands of Amir Khan and other predatory chiefs confederated with him, as well as to clear the country of all the foreign troops which now occupy it. It will, further, be necessary, to reduce to obedience and subjection the Chiefs who have opposed the legitimate authority of the Rajah. These operations may eventually lead to hostilities with Amir Khan and his confederates and will at all events require not only the advance of a considerable body of British Troops into the Jaipore territory, but their employment there for some time before the tranquillity of the country can be established and its protection ensured by the presence of the permanent subsidiary force to be stationed in it.

3. Another possible consequence of the proposed measure is that it may excite the jealousy or alarm or enmity of Dowlat Rao Sindhia to such a degree, as to stimulate that Chief to obstruct its execution or perhaps to resist it by force of arms.

4. It is the confident hope of the Governor General in Council that neither of these contingencies will occur. He thinks that Sindhia will not feel the occasion to be such as to authorize the exposure of his interests to the perilous consequences, which he must be sensible are likely to attend a rupture with the British Government in the relative condition of the two states, and His Lordship further expects that Amir Khan whose interests are more immediately affected by it will perceive the inutility as well as the danger of resisting us, so as that he will abandon the hold he now has on Jaipur without a struggle.

5. While however His Lordship in Council has every reason to indulge this hope, motives of obvious prudence and precautions demand that we should place ourselves in a state of preparation for the opposite result a policy which will moreover prove the most effectual security against its occurrence.

6. The foregoing brief sketch of the views and expectations of the Government with relation to the projected alliance with Jaipur will render obvious to His Excellency the Commander in Chief the objects of the Governor General in Council, the arrangements of which I proceed to state the general scope together with the request of the Governor General in Council that His Excellency will be pleased to carry them into effect in such manner as he may judge to be most expedient.

7. The primary object is to have the means of assembling a powerful force of Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery—European and Native—where they may be ready to advance into Jaipur as soon after the conclusion of the Treaty as circumstances may render expedient in order to give effect to its provisions. It is considered to be of importance that the force destined for this service should be on a scale calculated to over by its superiority any disposition which Amir Khan or his confederates might otherwise manifest to oppose it, or at all events if they should hazard an appeal to arms to place the result of a contest as much as possible beyond the reach of fortune. It occurs to His Lordship in Council that this force should be formed into two divisions of adequate strength to enter Jaipore, at different points and to unite or act separately as circumstances and the judgment of the Commanding Officer may point out. I am further directed to express the wish of the Government that the whole force destined to advance into Jaipore may be placed under the command of Major General Sir David Ochterlony whose political talents and experience added to his knowledge of the intentions and views of Government exclusive of his distinguished professional ability render him peculiarly qualified for this important charge. This command should be exercised by Sir David Ochterlony independently of the Military control excepting only that of the Commander in Chief. On questions of a political nature not provided for in his instructions he will refer to the Resident at Delhi to whom and to Sir David Ochterlony himself the necessary communications will be made under the authority of the Governor General in Council.

8. It is the wish of the Governor General in Council that the force should be ready to assemble at the destined points as early as may be practicable in the month of July.

9. The period of the advance of the troops into Jaipore will be determined by Mr Metcalfe in concert with Sir David Ochterlony. Mr Metcalfe will also maintain a confidential correspondence with Major General Marshall, Commanding in the Field on all points connected with the contemplated service.

10. Besides the force above referred to it will be necessary to provide the means of assembling at a short notice at Cawnpore a Corps of reserve of such strength as may be practicable. The object of this measure is to check any disposition which might be manifested by Sindhia to obstruct or oppose our proceedings with

relation to Jaipur, though as already intimated this is deemed to be an improbable contingency. His Excellency the Commander in Chief will also no doubt advert to the expediency of maintaining the force in Bundelkhand in a state of efficiency and preparation for movement and of eventually strengthening it, if practicable.

11. With these arrangements it will be necessary to combine such further dispositions as may be requisite for the defence of the British provinces from predatory incursion in such points as will not be covered by vicinity of the divisions above referred to or secured by the state of the rivers at that season of the year and His Excellency is requested to take this subject into his particular consideration as it is probable that in the event of our being opposed either by Amir Khan or Sindhia our enemies will have recourse to predatory inroads into our provinces as the most effectual means of harassing us and creating diversion in their favour.

12. With reference to this possible danger His Excellency is requested to bestow his attention on the defence of the provinces of Mirzapore and South Bihar, the neighbouring districts although in the rainy season they may be considered as nearly secure against incursions. If the proposed negotiation with Nagpur shall terminate in the establishment of an alliance with that state, the security of the province of Bihar against predatory inroad will be materially augmented, but it will not be altogether prudent to rely exclusively on the means which that alliance will afford of preventing the Pindaries from penetrating our provinces in that direction.

13. With reference to the defence of the North Western frontier, I am directed to observe that the troops of the Rajah of Bharatpore and Mackery, of the hereditary Chiefs of Dadie and Ferozepore and the principal Jagirdars to the Westward of the Jamuna will probably be available for that purpose. On this point it is recommended that Major General Marshall and Sir David Ochterlony should correspond with the Resident at Delhi.

14. His Lordship in Council concludes that the Commander in Chief will deem it expedient to maintain a sufficient force at Kurnaul or the advanced position of Lodiana with a view to render that frontier secure although no apprehension or danger from that quarter can be reasonably entertained.

15. Besides the preparations on this side of India such a disposition will be made of the Subsidiary forces in the Deccan and in Guzerat as will enable those troops to repress any disposition to give obstruction or co-operate effectually in the execution of any measures which may become necessary to be undertaken.

16. His Excellency the Commander in Chief will be aware of importance of carrying into effect the measures above prescribed in such a manner as to prevent the object of them from transpiring and the several preparatory arrangements should therefore be conducted so as to produce the smallest possible degree of public attention. His Excellency is requested however to give directions for

the separate and unconnected movements of single Corps towards the frontier stations, to instruct the officers of the Commissariat and other Departments to commence immediately such preparations in their respective branches of the services as can be made without producing the effect above alluded to, and generally to put the whole arrangement in train of execution subject to the precautions enjoined.

17 Under the supposition that the Commander in Chief will employ one or both of the Corps of Rohilla Horse and adverting to the expediency of retaining a Corps of that description for internal services, His Lordship in Council requests that the instructions issued in consequence of the resolution of Government of the 29th ultimo for separating Gardner's Corps may be suspended, and that it may remain embodied and be disposed of in such manner as His Excellency the Commander in Chief may think proper

18 In conclusion I am directed to request that the Commander in Chief will consider this letter to convey a general sanction for authorizing arrangements regarding the movements of Corps or involving expense connected with the projected service as would in ordinary case require the previous sanction of Government and the delay of a reference of which to the Governor General in Council would be injurious to the public service. His Excellency is requested however to cause early information to be given to Government of any instance in which he may judge it expedient to exercise the authority that the necessary communications may be made to the proper Departments.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Council Chamber
The 20th April 1816.

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Sd.) J ADAM,

Secretary to Government.

To—THE RIGHT HON'BLE SIR EVAN NEPEAN
BARONET, GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL OF BOMBAY

SIR,

The repeated solicitations of the Rajah of Jaipore having recently been renewed with augmented earnestness and the general situation of our affairs appearing to be favourable for carrying into effect the instructions which this Government has received from the Hon'ble the Secret Committee for negotiating a Treaty of alliance and Subsidy with the state of Jaipore, we have instructed the Resident at Delhi to commence a negotiation with the Rajah founded on his renewed overtures and we entertain a confident expectation that it will terminate in the formation of an alliance between the two states, and the permanent establishment of a British Subsidary force in the territories of Jaipur

2. Your Hon'ble Board is aware that that country has, for a long time past, been over-run by large bodies of predatory troops under the command of Amir Khan and other confederate Chiefs whose opperessions and exactions have reduced it to a condition of the greatest distress. The first effect of the conclusion of the proposed alliance therefore, will be to impose on the British Government the obligations of clearing the country of those marauders and of re-establishing the legitimate authority of the Rajah on those of his feudatories who have taken advantage of the deranged state of his affairs to throw their obedience.

3. We entertain a confident hope, that the measures we propose to pursue will enable us to effect these objects without involving the British Government in hostilities with Amir Khan, or the other leaders who now occupy a great part of the Jaipore territory.

4. In like manner although it must be presumed that the establishment of our influence in Jaipore to the exclusion of that of any other foreign state, must be extremely unacceptable to Dowlat Rao Sindhia, we are disposed to believe that that prince will not venture to obstruct our views by any measures of a nature calculated to involve him in the perilous consequences which he must feel assured would attend a rupture with the British Government in the relative condition of the two states.

5. While however we have every reason to indulge in these expectations, motives of obvious prudence and precaution demand that we should place ourselves in a state of preparation for the opposite result, a policy which will moreover prove the most effectual security against its occurrence.

6. Measures are accordingly in progress for assembling a large force on the North Western frontier of these provinces for the purpose of advancing into Jaipore in execution of those provisions of the Treaty which the British Government will be required immediately to perform. Arrangements are also on foot for providing the means of assembling a force if necessary in a position where it will be calculated to deter Sindhia from giving way to those feelings of dissatisfaction or jealousy which our proceedings at Jaipur must be expected to create. Other military preparations adopted to the probable state of affairs will be made on this side of India.

7. In addition to these, it will be advisable to make such a disposition of the forces in the Deccan and Guzerat, as shall promote the same object or enable us eventually to meet any hostile movement of Sindhia by an immediate and combined effort against every part of his possession.

8. The enclosed copies of our instructions to the Government of Fort St. George and to the Resident at Hyderabad and Poona, will apprise your Hon'ble Board of the arrangements proposed with regard to the troops in the Deccan. It remains for us to request

the assistance of your Hon'ble Board in carrying into effect the measures depending on your Government for giving efficiency to the force under the command of Colonel Smith which formed the subject of our communication of the 10th February, and in assembling in Guzerat a force calculated for the security of that province in the first instance and eventually for such operations in advance as circumstances may prescribe.

9. The force to be assembled on this side of India will probably be prepared to advance in the first week of July, and as we are led to hope from the tenor of your recent advices, that the detachment under the command of Colonel East will at an early period have accomplished the services now in progress and have become available for other objects we accordingly request that you will as soon as circumstances will admit take the requisite preparatory measures for assembling an efficient Field Force on the frontier as soon as circumstances shall render its advance expedient or necessary. It is desirable to avoid any premature disclosure of our intentions which might excite the jealousy or alarm of Sindhia whom it is the desire of His Lordship in Council to reconcile to our views at Jaipore without, however, omitting any measures adopted to the contingency of his opposing them. While therefore every requisite arrangement should be made for enabling the force to advance to its destined position at a short notice, it appears to us advisable that it should in the first instance merely be collected at Baroda or such other convenient point as may be decided on by your Hon'ble Board, and these held in readiness to advance on the receipt of an intimation from this Government or from the Resident with Sindhia or on the occurrence of any event that may render it necessary without awaiting such intimation. The only events of the latter description which we can anticipate are, an attempt by any body of Pindaries which might be induced by their own cupidity or stimulated by others to invade our territory or an incursion by some of those predatory bands, whom the retreat of Amir Khan and his associates from Jaipore may eventually throw back on the frontier of Guzerat. Attention should therefore be paid to the movements of those freebooters and timely measures taken to secure the country against any attempt they may make. Your Hon'ble Board will not fail to enjoin the officers charged with the direction of these operations to mark well the discrimination between such desultory attempts and a decided and deliberate system of hostility on the part of Amir Khan, or of Dowlat Rao Sindhia. It is our particular request that no forward movement against the possessions of the latter may be undertaken without a notification from this Government or the Resident at Sindhia's Court of a rupture with that Chief or without such a decisive indication of an intention on his part to attack us, as shall render forbearance from hostilities imprudent on military principles. There can be no doubt from what is known of the actual condition of Sindhia's establishments that there will be abundant time to ascertain his

views and intentions before they can be put in activity against us. On this account therefore as well as from our belief that the exigency will not arise, we suspend the communication of any instructions referring to that supposed state of affairs.

We have, etc, etc.,

(Sd.) MOIRA.

Fort William :

(Sd.) N. B. EDMONSTONE.

The 20th April 1816.

(Sd.) A. SETON.

(Sd.) G. DOWDESWELL.

To—MAJOR GENERAL SIR DAVID OCHTERLONY,
K. C. B.

SIR,

The Governor General in Council having determined to avail himself of your distinguished professional ability and political experience in the execution of measures connected with the views entertained by His Lordship in Council at the Court of Jaipur, I am directed to communicate to you the following observations and instructions for the guidance of your conduct in the performance of that service. The enclosed copies of instructions addressed under this date to the Resident at Delhi and of the several documents stated to be enclosed in my letter to Mr. Metcalfe will put you so fully in possession of the views of His Lordship in Council as to render the additional remarks and instructions it may be necessary to convey to you very few and brief.

2. You will observe that it is intended to place under your command the force destined to enter Jaipur eventually for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of a meditated treaty. The service assigned to you would be the clearing the country of the predatory troops by which it is now over-run ; next the settling the Rajah's Government and country ; and finally the establishing within his territories the subsidiary force which is to be permanently maintained in Jaipore.

3. With a view to enable you more effectually to accomplish these objects the Governor General in Council is pleased to vest you with political powers in addition to your military command. On all points relating to the latter branch of your duties you will receive instructions from His Excellency the Commander in Chief, and your instructions from this department will refer of course exclusively to your political functions and proceedings.

4. You will, from the instructions to Mr. Metcalfe observe it to be the hope and expectation of the Governor General in Council that the objects of the projected alliance with Jaipur may be accomplished without involving the British Government in hostilities with Amir Khan or his confederate chiefs, and you will comprehend the ground on which this expectation is entertained.

It will accordingly be a primary object of your exertions when you shall advance into Jaipur to induce Amir Khan and his associates to withdraw without the necessity of expelling them by force. With this view it will of course be necessary to open an early communication with that Chief and to convince him by representation of the advantage to his own interests of desisting from a fruitless opposition to the powerful force which can be immediately brought against him. With reference to this subject you will be pleased to advert to the 28th and following paragraphs of the instructions to Mr Metcalfe.

5 You will probably not deem it advisable to stop the advance of your detachment towards Jaipore in consequence of your communications with Amir Khan, but the precise mode of proceeding in this respect must be determined by your own judgment on the spot. On a general view of the question it appears to His Lordship in Council that the demonstration of a decided resolution to carry the plan into effect, without listening to any objections, accompanied by a frank and firm but conciliatory declaration of our views is the course of conduct most consistent with our own dignity and most likely to prevent opposition. Circumstances may indeed arise to render a more temporizing course advisable, and the Governor General in Council reposes with confidence on your judgment and experience, and those of Mr Metcalfe for so adopting your procedure to the actual nature of the case as to secure to the utmost practicable degree the early and pacific attainment of the objects of your advance.

6. Should Amir Khan or any other Chief persist in opposing you after the explicit and fair warning given them they must be attacked and dispersed and driven from the country. It will then become necessary to determine to what extent it may be proper and practicable, consistently with the respect due to the territories of other states and to the several circumstances of our situation to pursue the enemy beyond the limits of the Jaipur territory. Viewing them as they must be considered not as regular or acknowledged powers but as the leaders of Banditte, no state could justly complain of their being pursued within the limits of its territory and if an opportunity of striking a sudden and decisive blow were to offer His Lordship in Council would not be averse to taking advantage of it. At the same time a continued pursuit beyond the limits of Jaipore might lead us unavoidably into more complicated proceedings and relations than are now contemplated, and would interfere with what would become after their expulsion the primary object of our attention, namely the settlement of the Government of Jaipur and the restoration of the Rajah's legitimate authority. On considerations of therefore it would be expedient to limit the immediate views to their expulsion from Jaipore, reserving further measures to be pursued against them for future consideration. This course is further recommended from the reflection that if the troops now in Jaipur should after sustaining defeat

be driven from that territory they would probably be attacked and dispersed by forces of the territory in which they might take refuge. It is particularly desirable that no pursuit of the flying enemy should be carried into Sindhia's territories, should they take refuge there; as besides the discussions to which it would give rise with that prince, it may be calculated that he would not fail to endeavour to drive them out himself, and were the case be otherwise, it would be more expedient to render his conduct the subject of regular remonstrance through the Resident than to afford him plausible ground of complaint by entering his territory.

7. As soon as the Jaipore territory shall be cleared of its foreign enemies and the necessary provisions made for its external security, you will proceed in concert with the Rajah to adopt the requisite measures for restoring and confirming his authority and settling his country employing the troops under your command in compelling submission to his Government.

8. These are the only points on which it has appeared necessary at the present moment to furnish you with instructions. Such further directions as may be suggested in a more advanced stage of the proceeding will be duly conveyed to you.

9. You will be pleased to maintain the most unreserved and confidential communications with Mr. Metcalfe on every branch of the service confided to your charge, and you will avail yourself of the assistance of his judgment in all doubtful cases for which your instructions do not provide and which may admit of a reference without injurious delay.

10. A copy of this letter will be transmitted to Mr. Metcalfe.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Fort William:

Your most obedient humble servant,

The 20th April 1816.

JOHN ADAM,

Secretary to Government.

TO—CAPTAIN CLOSE, RESIDENT WITH DOWLAT
RAO SINDHIA.

SIR,

I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed copy of instructions which have been issued on this date to the Resident at Delhi for negotiating and concluding an alliance with the state of Jaipore.

2 You will observe that Mr Metcalfe has been instructed to communicate to you the event of the conclusion of the Treaty as soon as it shall have taken place, and I am now directed to state to you the course of proceeding, which the Governor General in Council is desirous that you should adopt as soon as that event shall be notified to you, or at such other period either before or after the negotiation shall be terminated as it may be found expedient. Mr Metcalfe to depart from the maintenance of secrecy regarding our views and proceedings with relation to that affair.

3 It is impossible to suppose that Sindhia will regard without dissatisfaction the conclusion of an alliance between the British Government and the state of Jaipore or that he would not willingly throw every impediment in his power in the way of it. Any circumstance calculated to augment the strength, influence or reputation of the British Government may be assumed to be unpalatable to Sindhia. But it is not apparent that to obstruct a measure calculated to produce that result but at the same time not immediately affecting his interests he would involve himself in those dangers which a rupture with the British Government would, he must be sensible, entail on him.

4 On a view of Sindhia's actual situation, the Governor General in Council is disposed to adopt the opinion expressed in one of your late dispatches, that it must be an object affecting him very nearly that would rouse him into active hostilities against the British Government. Neither the condition of his Government nor the chance of engaging other Chiefs or states to combine with him, nor the degree of discontent expected appear to be likely to produce that effect on him and His Lordship in Council therefore feels himself warranted in regarding the probabilities of the case to preponderate against the adoption by Sindhia of any acts of open hostility to obstruct our proceedings with relation to Jaipur. At the same time it will be necessary to provide against the opposite result and you will accordingly perceive that this consideration has been especially attended to in the arrangements about to be adopted.

5 It is not necessary to enter more fully into this part of the subject which will be readily comprehended by your judgment and discernment.

6 When you shall receive from Mr Metcalfe a communication to the effect adverted to in the 2nd preceding paragraph, you will be prepared to meet any enquiry that may be made by Dowlat Rao Sindhia relative to our negotiation with Jaipur by a representation to him in the spirit of the following observations.

7. You will state to him that the Government of Jaipur after many years of suffering from the ravages and extortions of predatory leaders by which it had been reduced to the verge of ruin, had renewed, with increased earnestness, its supplications to the British Government to be again received under its protection; that the British Government mindful of former friendship and considering itself and the Jaipur Government equally at liberty to make what arrangement they might deem consistent with their respective interests as long as their views did not extend to any measures calculated to invade the interests or otherwise give umbrage to any other States had listened to the solicitations of the Rajah and had resolved to extend its protection to that prince. You might then proceed to state the grounds on which the Governor-General in Council had deemed himself at liberty to take this step without consulting any other state, as follows; that by the effect of the alliance formed by the British Government with Jaipur in 1803 and the treaties of peace concluded by that Government with Sindhia in that year and with Holkar in the year 1806, Jaipur had become exonerated from all demands of every description theretofore maintained by the Mahratta powers; that no claims originating in transactions antecedent to that period could now be upheld since the interruption which afterwards took place in the alliance between Jaipur and the British Government did not annul any of the provisions of the treaties of peace above referred to, as affecting Jaipur that state having been in alliance with us at the time of their execution; that neither did the dissolution of the alliance preclude the parties from renewing it on the same or any other basis at any future time if they should think proper, supposing no intermediate engagement to have been made by either of a nature to bar their right; that the British Government had certainly contracted no such engagement and that there existed no reason to believe that the Jaipur Government had done so either; that even admitting the latter Government to have agreed to pay a fixed tribute to any state, that alone would not deprive it of the right of concluding new engagements which should not only not obstruct the payment of such tributes but on the contrary render the performance of the engagement more secure. That in point of fact no fixed tribute had been agreed on and the exactions which the Rajah had been compelled to submit to from the necessity of his affairs would by no just reasoning be construed into any such negotiation. That the treaty notwithstanding, provided for the investigation and eventual satisfaction of all just claims which other states might have on Jaipur and that such states would now have the security of the British Government for the punctual discharge of their demands instead of being obliged to enforce them by the sword at much trouble and expense.

8 Having demonstrated the right of the British Government and the Rajah of Jaipur to conclude the alliance and shown that it provides for every just and well founded claim, that any foreign state might possess against the Rajah you might proceed to remark how religiously the British had observed the 8th article of the treaty of 1805, a convincing proof of its having no indirect intentions in the present measure and of its being satisfied that the step was a deviation from that strict attention which it was ever anxious to pay to the interests of neighbouring powers in amity with it, that the alliance with Jaipur is quite a distinct question from any thing relative to Malwa, Mewar or Marwar; and that provided Sindhia should not by resisting it dissolve the amicable relations now subsisting between His Highness and the British Government, it would not produce any consequence injurious to the interests or reputation of the Maharaja.

9 The Governor-General in Council is prepared to expect the manifestation of considerable uneasiness on the part of Sindhia, at the proposed arrangement, but he trusts that by arguments and explanations, conceived in the spirit of the foregoing observations urged in temperate but firm language and aided by the impression produced by our military preparations, Sindhia will either be reconciled to the measure or convinced of the hopelessness of resisting it, and that he will desist from any opposition of a nature to produce an interruption of the subsisting amity. His Lordship in Council attaches the highest importance to the accomplishment of the alliance with Jaipur without involving us in hostilities with any state and especially with Sindhia. This result will be best secured by a firm and manly but temperate assertion of our own right and a denial of any title on the part of Sindhia to question it or to obstruct our views accompanied by a state of preparation to meet any event, and His Lordship in Council entertains a confident expectation that the judgment and address with which the discussion will be conducted by you will not fail to attain that desirable object.

10 You will remark that it has appeared to His Lordship in Council to be desirable that you should employ the representations above prescribed in reply to any enquiries or observations on the part of Sindhia and not offer them gratuitously. Any appearance of eagerness to communicate the grounds of our procedure to Sindhia might be misinterpreted by him into an anxiety to justify our conduct and consciousness that it is questionable and thus encourage him to bring forward pretensions from which his pride would afterwards permit him to recede. It is possible however that circumstances not within the contemplation of Government may arise to render a spontaneous communication to him expedient, either immediately after the conclusion of the alliance or even before that event supposing the existence of the negotiation to become generally known. This is a point which can only be

determined by your discretion founded on a review of the actual circumstances of the case, on which His Lordship in Council relies with entire confidence. Should a spontaneous communication appear to you expedient you may state, as the consideration which has principally influenced the British Government the evident necessity of preventing Amir Khan's fixing himself in a position where he would collect to his slanderous crowds of Pathans now spread throughout different states an assemblage which could not but be most dangerous for the tranquillity of Hindustan. This will indicate to Sindhia an interest in the interruption of Amir Khan's progress which may incline him to acquiesce the more readily in our procedure.

11. You will of course keep Mr. Metcalfe and the Residents at the other courts punctually informed of the progress and result of your discussions with Sindhia, and you will be pleased to make similar communications to Major General Marshall and to Sir David Ochterlony as well as to Mr. Wauchope.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Fort William:

J. ADAM,

The 20th April 1816.

Secretary to Government.

TRADE AND COMMERCE

Letter No. 1.—The letter with the enclosure throws light on the duties charged on export of grains in those days. Rs. 1-10-0 was charged as duty on each bullock-load of grain.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—COL. CONRAN, COMMANDING HYDERABAD
SUBSIDIARY FORCE, JALNA.

Nagpur, the 21st February 1812.

I have the honour to transmit an original Mahratta statement delivered by the revenue officers of the Rajah of Berar and an English memorandum stating the names of the Beoparies from your Camp, their number of Bullocks and the Government duties unpaid by them, as formerly complained of. According to this account 4,515 Bullock loads of grain have been carried out of this country without the payment of duties, which at the rate of one rupee ten annas per bullock would make the amount due to this Government rupees 7,336-14-0.

I hope this sum can be levied from the Beoparies who have so much abused the lenity of the Rajah's Government and contributed to interrupt a source of supply, so important to any British force acting in Berar.

Account of the Bunjaries from Colonel Conran's Camp who have purchased grain in the pergunnah of Umbagarh, etc., but who have not paid any duties in the Rajah's country.

Date of arrival		Place of rendezvous	Name of head person	Bullocks
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)
28th December 1811	..	Tumsul Moharee	.. Syed Yusuf on the part of Khushali Ram.	2,500
6th January 1812	..	Do.	.. Mohammed Aziz	900
23rd January 1812	..	Do.	.. Rama Hiru Hircarrah	800
Do.	..	Do.	.. Balaram	315
Total				4,515

Rate of duties payable—

	Ra. a. p
at Lanji per load	0 8 0
at Umbagarh per load	0 6 0
at Pet Khapah per load	0 2 0
at Nunderdhun	0 2 0
Tenghamunasee or export duty	0 8 0
Total	<hr/> *1 10 0 <hr/>

*Due for 4515 Bullocks at 7,336 14 0
the rate of Rs. 1 10-0 per load

Letter No 2.—The letter with the enclosed statement of grains bought and sold throws light on the market rates of grains prevailing at the time.

FROM—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

TO—THE DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL, FORT ST GEORGE.

Nagpur, the 23rd August 1812.

I am favoured with your letter of the 27th June. For the sum of 1,000 Nagpur rupees advanced to Captain Hughes, I have the pleasure to forward a duplicate of his receipt the original of which went with my public accounts to Fort William.

I also forward the duplicate of a receipt I received from Colonel Hare for the sum of 72 Pagodas advanced to a party of sepoys who accompanied him to Nagpur

Of the sum of 56 rupees advanced to a party of the 16th Madras Native Infantry I am not able to speak with any certainty, but money is never advanced unless it may be inadvertently to parties without a communication being made to the Officer Commanding the Corps, either by myself or the Officer Commanding my Escort.

The sum of Chalm rupees 80 was advanced to Kewaree Havildar of the 2nd Battalion 5th Regiment Native Infantry by the Officer Commanding my Escort.

The enclosed memorandum will I hope explain the amount credited for the sale of grain. Receipts when they are taken are always furnished with my accounts to Fort William, as vouchers.

Articles purchased.

[illegible]

Letter No. 3.—Russell wants to know whether it will be possible for Madras Government to procure timber from Bastar, since he says the best teak grows on left bank of the Indrawaty within Bastar territory.

FROM—H. RUSSELL, RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

TO—R. JENKINS, RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Hyderabad, the 13th April 1813.

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 30th ultimo, and now send you an order addressed by Rajah Govind Buksh to the Manager of Wunserpoor, which he supposes to be the place called Wunnee by the Nagpur Rajah's ministers, directing him to discontinue the coinage he has lately established. I also send you a memorandum given me by Govind Bukah on the subject of a coinage of bad pice which has lately been established in the Nagpur country, and which he is desirous should be discontinued. Will you be so good as to enquire into the matter, and to do whatever may appear to you to be proper and advisable.

The Madras Government have lately consulted me as to the practicability of drawing supplies of timber from the forests on the Banks of the Godavery, for the use of their different departments. Most of the teak that we got here, is cut down in the Nizam's country on the right bank of the Godavery, about 100 miles above Chinnoor. But the largest and best timber, I understand, grows in the district of Bustar, on the left Bank of the Inderowty, from whence it is floated during the rains into the Godavery, between Chinnoor and Budrachellam. Bustar is in the Nagpur territory, and I must therefore beg the favour of you to give me what information you can respecting it. What is the situation, power and character of the Zamindar? Is he really, or only as I suspect, nominally subject to the authority of your Court? Does the Raja ever grant Purwannahs, or interfere in any way, in the cutting down of timber in the Bustar forests? Does he levy any duty on it? Would he or could he, afford our Government any useful assistance in procuring it there? or would it be better for them, as I am inclined to think it would, to look entirely to the Zamindar, and to make it as far as possible his interest to meet their views. You will very much oblige me by answering such of those questions as you can without waiting to make references, and by giving me any other information on the subject that may be within your reach.

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